







### TOPOGRAPHICAL.

AND

# STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION

# COUNTY OF CHESTER.

### Containing an Account of its

Situation, Minerals, Markets,
Extent, Fisheries, Curiosities,
Towns, Mannfactures, Antiquities,
Roads, Commerce, Biography,
Rivers, Agriculture, Natural History,

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, &c.

To which is prefixed,

## A COPIOUS TRAVELLING GUIDE:

Exhibiting,

The Direct and principal Cross Roads, Inns and Distance of Stages, Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats.

Foming a

# COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY.

Also.

# A LIST OF THE FAIRS;

And an Index Table,

Shewing, at One View, the Distances of the Towns from London, and from each other.

BY GEORGE ALEXANDER COOKE,

Editor of the Universal System of Geography.

Illustrated with

A MAP OF THE COUNTY.

### Londons

Printed for C. COOKE, No. 17, Paternoster Row, by Brimmer and Co. Water Lane, Fleet Street, And sold by all the Booksellers in the United Kingdom.

THE R. P. P. LEWIS CO. LEWIS PRINCIPLE PRINCIPLE

Activities the

STATEMENT OF STATEMENT OF

AND LOUIS

# INDEX OF DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN,

In the County of Chester.

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	Alt	ringi	Altringham,	1		1	U	Distant from London,	e fro	IN L	medo	. '2		V	Milcs,	179	-
Chester,	32 (	Ch	Chester,				1					,				182	0
Congleton,	20	37	20 37 Congleton,	nglet	on,											175	10
Frodsham,	19	10	10 27	Frodsham, -	dsha	ım,	1			1	•					192	~
Halton,	15	14	14 31		4 Halton,	ton	Total.			1		à.		1	,	195	
Knutsford,	7	96		17	19	Km	15 17 19 Knutsford,	rd,	•	-				•	ì	173	~
Macclesfield,	18	47	10	28		14	30 14 Macclesfield,	ccle	shel	d,				1		207	_
Malpas,	33	16	31	23	20	25	25 40 Malpas,	Ma	lpas,						-	165	10
Middlewich,	20	21	11	11 15	17	6	15	18	Mi	Middlewich,	wich					167	~
Namptwich,	30	20	9	20	18	15	54	11	10	10 Namptwich,	mpt	wich	-			164	-4
Northwich,	12	19	5	12	6	1	21	20	9	15	Z	15   Northwich,	ich,	•		174	-41
Sandbach,	24	98	6	23 26		13	13 19 22	22	5		12	San	10 12 Sandbach,	cb,		162	2
Stockport,	7	39	7   39   25   25   22   14   11   30   26   33   21   25   Stockport,	25	22	14	=	30	56	33	21	25	Sto	ckp	ort,	176	3

# INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF CHESTER.

The County of Chester is contained within the Diocese of the same name, and belongs to the Province of York.

Produce and Manufactures.	Salt, corn iron, mill-stones, alom, hops, timber, etcese, &c.  Amanfactures: silk, cotton, buttons, stockings, ints, and brass.	
Sends to Parliament	4 Members, etz. 2 for the City of Chestar. 2 for the Shire.	
Contains	1 City. 7 Hundreds. 11 Market- Towns. 191,751 Inhabitans. bitans. acres of faul.	a cycle hips access
Extent	In length 56 miles. I City. In breadth 30 miles. 7 Ilundreds In circumference about 11 Market. 112 miles. 191,751 Inh bitants. About 6766, acres of its	
Bounded by	Laucashire and York.  On the east by Derbyshire and Sadfordshire.  On the south by Shrop shire.  And on the west by Denbigishire, Einshire, and the Irisi Sea.	

The present name of the County is derived from the Saxon appellation Cestrescyre, and it is commonly called the County Palatine of Chester.

# AN ITINERARY of all the

# DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS

# CHESHIRE.

## In which are included the STAGES, INNS, and GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

N. B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through; the Figures that follow shew the Distances from Places to Place. Town to Town, and Stages; and in the last Column are the names of Gentlemen's Seats and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R and L.

# JOURNEY FROM CHESTER TO PARKGATE, THROUGH MOLLINGTON.

CHESTER to			William Change Committee on the
Mollington	21/2	21/2	Mollington Hall, J. Fielder, esq. R.
	13		Little Mollington, T. Gale, esq. R. Copenhurst Hall, Richard Richardson, esq. R.
The Yatch	23	51	esq. R.
		JIE	Copenhurst Hall, Richard
Enderton	15	93	Richardson, esq. R.
Great Neston	1	103	Inn-Golden Lion.
		100	Inn-Golden Lion. Puddington Hall, J. Powell,
with the best of the later	1	100	csq. L.
Parkgate	11	12	Inns-George, Golden Tal-
Line suits lit will		N's	bot.

# JOURNEY FROM CHESTER TO GRINDLEY BROOK,

Service of the servic				W. COLL
CHESTER to	1		A PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE	Same?
		- 4	At Christleton, Rev.	Mr
Hatton Heath	5	5	At Christleton, Rev. Mostyn,	
Goulbourn Bridge	13	63	The same of the same	352.
Handlow	11	72	THE PERSON NAMED OF THE PARTY O	
			Alderley Hall, Rev.	Mrs

Alderley, R.

6 1	TINERA	RY OF THE
Broxton No Man's Heath Grindley Brook	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Boulesworth Castle, T. Turleton, esg. Broxton Hall, Rev. Mr. Hunter, R. Iscoed, William Congreve, esg. R.

# JOURNEY FROM STOCKPORT TO MACCLESFIELD,

THR	THROUGH TITHERINGTON.				
Stockport to Bullock's Smithy	21	21	Inn—Sun.		
Poynton	214	43			
THE PRINT OF		31	bart. L. Seat of Matthew Pickford,		
Hope Green	34	51/2	esq. R. Inn—Roebuck.		
A STATE OF THE STA		1200 E	Addlington Hall, Mrs. Rowlls Leigh, R.		
		831	Boneshall Hall, Rev. Mr.		
Flash	4	$9\frac{1}{2}$	Watson, R.		
Titherington	2	11			
243.00		- 10	Byram's House, M. Daintry, esq. R.		
			Seat of J. Stonehewer, esq. L.		
Art water spec	100	(6)	Sutton Hall, late seat of the Earl of Fauconberg, L.		
		A Sale	Seat of Brian Hodson, esq. L. and Mrs. Brooksbank, R.		
Macclesfield .	34	113	Inn—Old Angel.		
TOURNEY ERO	VI.	CHI	ESTER TO NANTWICH		

# JOURNEY FROM CHESTER TO NANTWICH,

CRESTER to Little Broughton	34	3/4	South of T. Lucy and T. Change
Vicars Cross Stamford Bridge	17	2 33	Seats of J. Ince, esq. J. Clave- ley, esq. and the Rev. Mr. Mostyn,
Home Street	3	41	3/2000910

no.	DAD	SIN	CHESHIRE. 7
Tarvin	11	1 51	
Duddon	2	71	
Clotton	13		
	24	103	
Tarporley	14	104	
		1	Between seven and eight miles
	1	13/6	to the left of Tarporley are Vale Royal, Thomas Chol-
		. 3	Vate Royal, Inomas Chot-
			mondeley, esq.; Delamere
		1	Lodge, George Wilbraham,
			esq.; Rulcoe, J. S. Barry,
	1		esq.; and Norley Bank,
		1	Mrs. Croxton.
The Lane Ends	1	1134	
Mighway Side	2	133	
Barbridge '	13	151	
Wardle	14	15%	
Stoke	1	163	The state of the s
Holston	1	173	是是自己的。 1000 — 1000 — 1000 — 1000 — 1000 — 1000 — 1000 — 1000 — 1000 — 1000 — 1000 — 1000 — 1000 — 1000 — 1000 — 1000
Acton	1	133	Part of the second second second
Cross the Weever	, fitte	4	TO THE REAL PROPERTY.
river.	3		
NANTWICH	11	20	Inn-Crown.
Zenki Wich	-4	~	Near Nantwich seat of the
of Harry Porch		C156	late Sir Briant Broughton,
mitro A. Salar stages a	ID.		
J. es apadl J.		W.	Delves; Dorfold Hall, II.
Sales Charles Links			Tomkinson, esq.; Wren-
	our	Ditt.	bury Hall, T. Starkey,
Colonia and Colonia			esq.
			Between six and seven miles
			from Nantwich, on the
			Whitchurch road, is Com-
		0	bermere, Sir R. Cotton,
A TOTAL STATE OF			bart. Six miles from Nant-
	1		wich, on the Malpas road,
THE RESERVE	31	5.26	is Cholmondeley Hall, Earl
No. of the last	17)	35	Cholmondeley.
CONTRACTOR OF STREET	110	100	The second secon

# JOURNEY FROM CHESTER TO LOWER WALTON,

THROUGH FRODSHAM.

1.0	INU	UGn	r Kudsham.
CHESTER to		100	
Flootebrook	3	3	
Moole	13	21	Hoole Hull, John Oliver, esq.
Mickle Trafford	134	3	R.
	2		Trafford Hall, Major Scott
Dunham-on-the-		ST.	Tir Many Manjor Scott
Hill	-	0	Waring
	3 21/2	6	
Helsby	27	81/2	
Netherton	1	91	TO A DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSONS AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSONS ASSESSED.
Frodsham '	1 1 2	11	Inn-Bear's Pare.
Cross the Weever			
river.			
Sutton Marsh		100	
Gate	11	121	
Sutton	14 34	13	Aston Hall, Hon. Mrs.
Cross the Canal	4	10	Aston,
Nav.			21310116
		13	
Preston-on-the-	1.0	1.	A Caller Branch March 2012
Hill	5	15	77 77 77 7 77
THE STATE OF THE STATE OF		Sees.	Hall Wood, Henry Worth-
	100	43	ington, esq.; and Norton
	1	Day.	Priory, T. Brooke, esq. L.
Daresbury	11	161	Daresbury Hall, Rev. George
Cross the Canal.	1		Heron, R.
Higher Walton	15	181	Service of the servic
Lower Walton	1 2	19	
Cross the Mer-	1 2	1	
sey river, and en-	1	1.33	The sale of the sale of the sale of
ter Lancashire.	100	100	
ter Luncustire.	1	1	

# JOURNEY FROM CHESTER TO CROSS STREET, THROUGH NORTHWICH.

CHESTER to	1	
Stamford Bridge	33	34
Stamford Bridge Home Street	1	44

	ADS	SIN	CHESHIRE.
Tarvin	1	5	
Kelsall	3	8	
Sandyway Head	7	15	
			Vale Royal, Thomas Chol-
		100	mondley, esq. R.
		4-3	Delamere Lodge,
		113	George Wilbraham, esq. L.
		100	
Y 11 Y 1		100	Norley Bank, Mrs. Croxton,
Hollowway Head		163	L.
Northwich	114	18	Inn-Crown.
			Tabley Hall, Sir John
Mere Town	7	25	Leicester, bart. R.
Buckley Hill	1	26	
ST.		7/4	Dunham Park, Earl of Stam-
Cross the Bollin		19 A	ford and Warrington.
river.			J
Altringham	5	31	Inns-Bowling Green and
Zaren Ingiliani	3	21	Unicorn,
		100	
	170	1400	In the environs of Altrinc-
	1	100	ham, are the following
	1	1 38	seats, viz Ashley Hall,
	10	400	John Arden, esq. Withen-
		100	shaw Hall, William Tat-
		1	ton, esq. Oldfield Hall,
			William Rigby, esq. Tin-
To the restor	1	1	furley Hall, Thomas Ri-
		1	chardson, esq. Sale Hall,
CAN CHEST OF THE ST		1	Charles White, esq. Wood-
THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF THE	1	19	heys, W. Godley, esq. Ba-
	1		guley Hall, Miss Hough-
	1	3	ton; and Ashton-upon-
	1		
	10		Mersey, Rev. Mr. John-
Cuas Stuars	10	10.	son.
Cross Street	3	34	
Cross the Mer-			
sey river, and en- ter Lancashire.			

# JOURNEY FROM CHEADLE TO CONGLETON, THROUGH NETHER ALDERLEY.

THROUGH NETHER ALDERLET.			
CHEADLE to	1		At Cheadle, James Harrison,
Cross the Bollin			esq.
river.		2127	
Wilmslow	5	5	Inn-Swan.
		Year	Hawthorn Hall,
		1944	Thomas Page, esq. L.
			Fullshaw Hall,
Street Lane End	21	74	Samuel Tynney, esq. L.
Nether Alderley	1	81	
		-4	Alderley Hall, Sir John
-marin before A mo	30	200	Thomas Stanley, bart. L.
Monks Heath	13	10	Thomas Stantey, but to 12
DIONES LICAU	14	10	Thornycroft Hall,
other Green with	TE.	- 000	
and the	10	23	Edward Thornycroft, esq. L.
44. 1 2.4° % 972 mg 2	OY		Davenport Hall,
Siddington	24		
Marton	134	14	Marton Hall.
	1	10	Sir Thomas Fleetwood, bart.
			Eaton Hall,
CARL BUILDING TO STATE		170	Eaton Lee, esq.
CONGLETON	34	174	Inns-Black Lion, Swan.
TOURNEY FROM LATCHEORD TO			

# JOURNEY FROM LATCHFORD TO MOSS HOUSE,

THROUGH MACCLESFIELD AND KNUTSFORD.

Latchford to Kirkman's Green, T. G. High Leigh — — — Mcre	434 34 214	434 512	High Leigh Hall, George Leigh, esq. L. Tatton Park, W. Egerton, esq. L. Mere Hall, Thomas Langs ford Brookes, esq. L.
	-4		ford Brookes, esq. L.

ROADS IN CHESHIRE.			
KNUTSFORD	123	181	luns-Angel, George.
	100	70.0	Booth Hall,
	33	元	Peter Leigh, esq. L.
Ollerton Gates	21	103	TONIETTA ZOSONET
Chelford	3	134	er besideral
Monks Heath	15	151	Told to Sell love of the Lawley E.
Birtles	21	171	
		1000	Birtles Hall,
Pepper Street	3	181	R. Hibbert, esq. L.
Long Moss	3	19	the the land at least
Macclesfield	11	204	Inns-New Angel, and Old
Walkers Barn	3	231	Angel.
New Inn	2	251	
Moss House	3	281	

# JOURNEY FROM NORTHWICH TO BELL O'THE HILL,

THROUGH TARPORLEY.			
Northwich to Hollow-way Head Sandyway Head	14/13/4	1 <del>1</del> 3	Delamere Lodge, George
			Wilbraham, esg. L. Vale Royal, Thomas Chol- mondeley, esq. R. Oulton Hall,
TARPORLEY	7	10	John Egerton, esq. L. Inn-Swan.
Peckforton	41	143	The same of the sa
Hampton Post	51	20	
No Man's Heath	1	21	THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF THE
Bell o' the Hill	2	23	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.

# JOURNEY FROM LATCHFORD TO STOCKPORT,

### THROUGH ALTRINGHAM AND CHEADLE.

THROUGH ALTRINGHAM AND CHEADLE,			
Latchford to			- Park Hill has little bearings
Thelwall	11		At Thelwall, the Rev. Tho-
	14	14	
Cross the Duke		3.5	mas Blackburn, R
of Bridgewater's		17-10	Stanton, esq. L.
Canal.		31	2 140 14 TOWN SHOPE YERSEN
Booth's Lane	2	31	to go in the life washing week to
	1		14 T TO 1
Lymm	34	4	At Lymm, Thomas Taylor,
	-	100	esq. R Wilson, esq.
			R Wilde, esq. L.
		-10	Oughterington Hall,
Bollington	4	8	John Leigh, esq.
Dunham	11		Dunham Hull,
Dumam	144	34	
A The Standard		200	Earl of Stumford, R.
ALTRINGHAM	14	11	Inns-Bowling Green, und
			Unicorn.
Timperley -	13	121	Timperley Hall,
Tolographic religion	1	-	T. Richardson, esq.
_ Los ace	.44	16.9	Withenshaw Hall,
Sharson	21	15	William Egerton, esq. L.
		16	Witten Deorton, tsq. L.
Galley Green			A
CHEADLE	14	174	Seats of John Dale, esq. R.
	0, 8	E314	and James Harrison, esq.
	100	20	L. C.
STOCKPORT	103	20	Inns-Crown and Anchor,
DIOCKFORT	4	20	
	1	100	Horse-shoe, White Lion.

THE OF ITIMEBARY

# CORRECT LIST OF ALL THE FAIRS

# CHESHIRE.

Altringham .- April 22, August 5, November 22, cattle and drapery.

Budworth .- February 13, April 5, October 2, cows, horses, swine, hats, and pedlary.

Congleton .- Thursday before Shrovetide, May 12, July

13, December 3, cattle and pedlars' ware.

Chester .- Last Thursday in February, cattle; July 5, October 10, cattle, Irish linens, cloths, hardware, hops, drapery, and Manchester wares.

Frodsham .- May 15, August 21, cattle and pedlary.

Halton .- Old Lady-day, April 5.

Knutsford .- Whit-Tuesday, July 10, November 8, cattle and drapery.

Macclesheld .- May 6, June 22, July 11, October 4,

November 11, cattle, wool, and cloth.

Mulpas .- April 5, July 25, St. James's, December 8, cattle, linen, woollen cloths, hardware, and pedlary. Middlwich .- St. James, July 25, Holy Thursday, cattle. Namptwich .- March 15, September 4, December 16,

cattle, horses, cloaths, flannels, hardware, pewter, and bedding.

Northwich.-August 2, December 6, cattle, draperygoods, and bedding. Over .- May 15, September 25, horses, cattle, sheep,

pigs, onions, and pedlary ware.

Sandbach,-Easter Tuesday, first Thursday after September 10, cattle and horses.

Stockport .- March 4, March 25, May 1, October 25, cattle and pedlars' ware.

Torperley .- May 1, Monday after St. Bartholomew, August 24, December 10, cattle and pedlars' ware.

Winsford .- May 8, November 25, horses, cattle, sheep. pigs; hats, cloth, and other merchandize.

# THE COUNTY OF CHESTER.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, EXTENT, AND FACE OF THE COUNTY.

CHESHIRE is bounded by Lancashire on the whole northern side, except a small point to the north-east, where it touches Yorkshire; on the east by Derbyshire and Staffordshire, on the south by Shropshire, and a detached part of Flintshire, and by Denbighshire and the rest of Flintshire on the west, touching also upon the Irish Sea at its north-

west extremity.

The form of the county is distinguished by two horns or projections, running east and west from its northern side; one of which is made by the hundred of Wirral, lying between the estuaries of the Mersey and the Dee; the other by a part of Macclesfield hundred, pushing out between Derbyshire and Yorkshire. A line drawn from the extremities of these projections is found to measure 58 miles; but the extent of the county from east to west, across its middle, does not exceed 40 miles. Its greatest extent from north to south is about 30 miles. In circumference it is about 112 miles, and, according to the agricultural survey of the county, published by the Board of Agriculture, it contains about 676,000 acres.

The general appearance of Cheshire is that of an extended plain, and is for the most part a flat country, whence it has obtained the name of the Vale Royal of England, though this name properly refers to its central part, in which was situated the abbey of Vale Royal, founded by King Edward the First.

On the eastern side of the county there is a range of hilly or rather mountainous country, connected





Tabley House



Lyme Hall.



Chester Bridge .



Beeston Castle.



with the Derbyshire and Yorkshire hills, of about 25 miles in length, and five in breadth, extending from near Congleton to the north-eastern extremity of the county. From Macclesfield, in a north-western direction, the surface is irregular and hilly; but continues of that description no further than Alderley, about five or six miles from Macclesfield: on the Shropshire side the surface is likewise broken and irregular. Approaching the western side of the county, at the distance of about ten miles east from Chester, there is another range of irregular hills, between the rivers Dee and Mersey; these hills are in a direction almost north and south, and extend about 25 miles from Malpas, on the south side of the county, to Frodsham, on the opposite of it. About a mile to the south of Altringham, rises an elevated tract of ground, called Bowden Downs, which extends a considerable distance from east to west. Its western extremity is covered with the wood of Dunham Park. Bowden church is situated on the summit of this tract, from whence there is a most extensive view of a large part of Cheshire and the southern part of Lancashire. The remaining part of the county, amounting to nearly four-fifths of the whole, is pro-bably not more on a medium than from 100 to 200 feet above the level of the sea.

### ANCIENT HISTORY.

Cheshire is one of those six counties Staffordshire, Flintshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire, and Leicestershire, inhabited previous to the arrival of the Romans by the Cornavii, Carnabii, or Corinavii. The learned Mr. Whitaker conjectures that the Cornavii of Cheshire derive their name from the situation and nature of their coast, and in particular from the peculiar form of the long promontory between the estuaries of the Dee and the Mersey above mentioned. Mr. Owen, however, objects to this etympole.

18 4

nology,

mology, and argues that the small head-land between the rivers Dee and Mersey is too inconsiderable to have given name to this extensive nation, and prefers the etymon Corain, circling or winding, and air, streams. Then "the people would be called Coranivi, Coreineiviaid, Coreineivon, Coreineivwyr, and Coreineivwys, or the inhabitants of the banks of winding rivers; names very applicable with respect to the two great rivers, the Severn and the Dee, on which their county chiefly lay."

Camden professes himself ignorant whence the name is derived. The Cangi, or Clangi, are thought by him to have dwelt among the Cornavii, and particularly to have been seated in this county, as he conjectures from several pieces of lead found in the

shore adjoining, with this inscription:

IMP. DOMIT. AUG. GER. DE. CEANG. IMP. VESP. VII. T. IMP. V. COSS.

Which he supposes to have been memorials of the victory obtained over the Ceangi, who lived in these parts. Dr. Leigh endeavours to confirm this opinion from the names of several towns, which seem to retain some traces of their ancient inhabitants, as Conghill in Broughton, and Congleton in Nantwich hundred. The name of the Cornavii continued until the decline of the Roman empire; for some troops of the Cornavii settled under the latter emperors, as may be seen in the Notitia Provinciarum; and very probably they were a martial people, because the Romans always kept strong garrisons in their territories to restrain or keep them in subjugation.

Cheshire was included by the Romans in the division they name Flavia Cæsariensis, and on the final departure from the Island, it reverted again to the Britons, who continued its possessors till about the year 607, when it was conquered by Ethelfrith, the Saxon king of Bernicia, who defeated the army of Brochmael Yscithroc, king of Powys, assembled to oppose him near Chester. On this occasion Ethelfrith is said to have slain 1,200 defenceless monks, whom Brochmael had called from the neighbouring monastery of Bangor, and stationed on a hill, that

they might assist him with their prayers.

It was afterwards conquered by the Mercians, and continued a part of their kingdom about 200 years, when it fell into the hands of the Danes, who kept it but a few years; for King Alfred, A. D. 877, carrying his arms against those invaders, conquered them, and making Cheshire a province to the kingdom of the West Saxons, constituted Etheldred, one of the race of the kings of Mercia, duke or governor of the county. After the family of Etheldred had possessed this dignity for six generations, they were at length deprived of it by Canute the Dane, who committed this part of Mercia to the government of the Earls of Chester; of these only Leofric, the son of Leofwid; Algar, the son of Leofric; and Edwin, the son of Edgar, enjoyed this dignity, previous to the Norman conquest; for, in the time of the last earl, William the Conqueror, and his Normans, got possession of the English throne, and thus the Saxon nobility ended.

William, upon his settlement in England, gave the province to Gherbod, a valiant Fleming, who had undergone many hardships for him, both in acquiring and settling his kingdom. This earl, after some time, had occasion to return to Flanders, where he was made prisoner, and obliged, from a long captivity, to resign his newly-acquired honours and

possessions to another.

The Conqueror in his stead appointed Hugh de Aurenge, better known by the name of Hugh Lupus. To him he delegated extraordinary power; making this a county palatine, and gave it such a sovereign jurisdiction, that the ancient earls kept their

B 3

own parliament, and had their own courts of law, in which any offence against the dignity of the sword of Chester was as cognizable as the like offence would have been at Westminster against the dignity of the royal crown; for William allowed Lupus to hold this county "tam liberé ad gladium, sicut ipsa Rex tenebat Angliam tenebat ad coronan." The sword with which he was invested is still to be seen in the British Museum, inscribed, "HUGO COMES CESTRE." The office of sword-bearer, at the times of the coronation, was also held by this weapon.

When Lupus was established in his government he formed his parliament by the creation of eight barons, viz. Nigel, Baron of Halton; Robert, of Monthalt; William Malbeding, of Nantwich; Vernon, of Shipbrooke; Fitz Hugh, of Malpas; Hamon de Massie, of Dunham; Venables, of Kinderton; and Nicholas, of Stockport. They were obliged to pay him attendance, and to repair to his court to give it the greater dignity. They were also bound, in time of war with Wales, to find for every knight's fee, a horse, with caparison and furniture, or two without furniture, in the division of Cheshire. Their knights and freeholders were to have corselets and habergions, and were to defend their lands with their own bodies. Every baron had also four esquires, every esquire one gentleman, and every gentleman one valet. Each of these barons had also their free courts of all pleas and suits, and sued all plaints except what belonged to the Earl's sword. They had besides power of life and death; the last instance of the exertion of which was in the person of Hugh Stringer, who was tried for murder in the baron of Kinderton's Court, and executed in the year 1597.

This species of government continued from the Conquest till the reign of Henry the Third, a period of 171 years; when, in the year 1237, on the death of John Scot, the seventh earl of the Nor-

man line, without male isssue, Henry took the earldom into his own hands, and gave the daughters of the late earl other lands in lieu; unwilling, as he said, that so great an inheritance should be purcelled out among distaffs. The king bestowed the county on his son Edward, who did not assume the title, but afterwards conferred it on his son Edward, of Caernaryon: since that time the eldest sons of the kings of England have always been earls of Chester as well as princes of Wales. The palatinate was governed by the Earls of Chester as fully and iudependently, for nearly three centuries after this period, as it had ever been by the Norman earls; but Henry the Eighth, by authority of parliament, made it subordinate to the crown of England. Yet, notwithstanding this restraint, all pleas of lands and tenements, and all contracts within the county, are to be heard and determined within it; and all determinations out of it are deemed void 'et coram non judici,' except in cases of error, foreign plea, and foreign voucher; and for no crime but treason can an inhabitant of this county be tried out of it."

The county of Chester, being solely under the jurisdiction of its own earls, sent no representatives to the national parliament for the city, nor shire, till the year 1549, the 3d of Edward the Sixth, when, upon the petition of the inhabitants, two members

were summooed from each.

## RIVERS.

The principal rivers of this county are the Mersey, and the Dee, which receive and carry into the sea all the smaller rivers and rivulets, viz. the Weaver, the Dane, the Whirlock, the Goyt, the Bolling, &c.

The river Mersey divides Cheshire from Lancashire, for a course of nearly 60 miles, and is navigable about 35 miles from Liverpool to the mouth of the Irwell, for vessels of nearly 100 tons burthen. This river derives its source from a conflux of small

streams, near the junction of Cheshire with Derbyshire and Yorkshire. It pursues a very winding course, and receives continued accessions, of which the principal are the river Invell, out of Lancashire, and the Bollin from Cheshire. Below the town of Warrington the Mersey increases in breadth, having a large shallow channel, full at high tide, but exhibiting little, except the bare sand, at low-water. Opposite Runcorn a tongue of land running from Lancashire, suddenly contracts its dimensions, forming what is called Runcorn Gap. After its junction with the Weaver from the heart of Cheshire, it swells into a broad estuary; and, taking a north-western course, soon falls into the Irish channel.

The Goyt rises near the place where the road from Macclesfield to Buxton or cosses the boundaries of the county, and it divides Cheshire from Derbyshire, till it meets the Ethirow river, near Chad-

kirk.

The Bollin rises among the hilly moors to the south of Macclesfield; and, passing that town, takes a north-west course through Prestbury and Willowslow, and joins the Mersey below Warburton.

The Dane rises near the junction of Derbyshire and Staffordshire with Cheshire, and, forming for some distance the boundary between the two last counties, pursues a westerly course by Congleton and Holmes Chapel to Middlewich, where it receives the Whirlock from the south. It then, turning northerly, passes Davenham in its course to Northwich, where it falls into the Weaver.

The Whirlock rises near Lawton, on the borders of Staffordshire, flows a little to the south of Sandback in its course to join the Dane at Middlewich.

The river Dee was held in great veneration by our British ancestors; by them it was called Dufyrdwy, because it springs from two fountains in Merionethshire: it was also called Dea, Devi, or Divana, because the Britons and Romans accounted

RIVERS. 21

the waters of it divine, as the Thessalians esteemed *Peneus*, the Scythians Ister, and the Germans the Rhine. Nay, the Christian Britons retained the same superstition; for it is said, that when they were first drawn up in battle against the Saxons, and ready to engage, they kissed the earth, and then dramk of the waters of their beloved stream.

The Dee, coming from Denbighshire, reaches the borders of Cheshire in the south-west, to which it forms a boundary from Worthenbury to Aldford; it then passes into Chester, between Holt and Farndon. From Chester it takes a westward course, and, after flowing through an artificial channel, formed at an immense expence by a united body of gentlemen, called the River Dee Company, at length spreads into a broad estuary, between the county of Flint and the hundred of Wirral, and empties itself into the Irish Sea, about fourteen miles

from Chester.

The Weaver derives its source from Ridley Pool, close to Cholmondeley Hall, and passes Nantwich, Minshall, Weaver, Winsford, and Northwich, where it is joined by the Dane; from hence it turns westerly, and, in a very winding course, flows to Frod-sham bridge, below which it falls into the Mersey. It receives several tributary streams in its course, and has been made navigable by means of various locks and weirs. The plan upon which this was effected deserves to be noticed. The gentlemen of this county, observing the vast expence of land carriage from the salt towns to Liverpool, and other maritime places, determined to make the Weaver navigable, and accordingly, in 1720, an act of parliament was obtained, which empowered them to raise a subscription of 49,000l. to defray the necessary expences. The subscribers were to receive five per cent on the principal, and one per cent on the risk, and also certain installments arising from the tonnage of vessels on the river, till the money advanced

was reimbursed; but afterwards the whole amount of tonnage, when the charges of necessary repairs and management had been deducted, was to be employed, from time to time, for and towards amending and repairing public bridges within the county, and such other public charges, and in such manner as the magistrates shall yearly direct. All vessels navigating upon this river pay one shilling per ton, whether they pass the whole length of the navigable part, or any shorter distance, and the receipt has amounted in some years to upwards of 8,0001 The original debt has been paid off some time, and, exclusive of other county expences defrayed by this lucrative revenue, the principal costs of erecting the extensive goal at Chester were derived from this source. The length of this navigation is 20 miles, in which course it has a fall of 45 feet, ten inches, divided by ten locks. About 150 vessels, from 20 to 100 tons burthen, are constantly employed in carrying rock-salt downwards, and coals and corn upwards.

### CANALS.

The Bridgewater Canal, for 14-feet boats, from Runcorn to Manchester, runs at no great distance from the Mersey, about twenty miles through this county, before it crosses to the Lancashire side of that river.

The Staffordshire, or Grand Trunk Canal, joins the Bridgewater Canal at Preston Brook, about five miles from Runcorn, and passes in a south-eastern direction through nearly the centre of the county. The Chester Canal extends from Chester to Nantwich, easterly, about twenty miles.

The Ellesmere Canal, which unites with the rivers Mersey, Dee, and Severn, is for 14-feet boats, commences about 10 miles above Liverpool, at Pool Wharf, in Wirral, and, proceeding from thence to Chester, about eight miles and a half from Chester,

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it passes for about seven miles along the Chester Canal, and then turns off towards Ellesmere, in Shropshire, terminating at Shrewsbury, which is on the whole nearly a course of sixty miles, exclusive of the branches.

There are various small lakes or meres in Cheshire, of which the principal are Budworth Mere, Rosthern Mere, Mew Mere, and Tutton Mere, all in Bucklow hundred, some meres in Delamere Forest, Comber Mere, in Namptwich hundred, and Bar Mere, not far from Malpas. Several of these are of considerable depth, and abundantly stocked with fish.

Salmon swim a great way up the Mersey, and their young, called Brood, run up the rivulets among the moors to a considerable height, and are easily caught in shallow water by the inhabitants. Trout is also plentiful in these streams, and is occasionally sold at sixpence per pound; they are generally caught with a rod and line. These and a few eels are the only fish in this part of the Mersey.

## CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

Cheshire is divided into seven hundreds, exclusive of the city of Chester, which is a county of itself. Each hundred has two sub-divisions, for each of which there are two high constables. It contains one city and eleven market-towns, and sends four members to parliament. The following are the names of the hundreds:

Macclesfield Hundred, Bucklow Hundred, Northwich Hundred, and Wirrall Hundred.

The county of Chester is comprised within the diocese of the same name, which was erected into a bishopric by Henry the Eighth, in the year 1541, and belongs to the province of York. It contains

two archdeaconries, those of Chester and Richmond. Cheshire is entirely within the former; it is subdivided into the following deaneries, viz. the deaneries of Chester, Frodsham, Macclesfield, Maldenwich, alias Namptwich, Malpas, Bangor, Middlewich, and Wirrall, containing together 36 parishes, and 35,621 houses, inhabited by 191,751 persons, viz. 92,759 males, and 98,992 females; of whom 38,823 were returned by the late population act as being employed in agriculture, and 67,447 in trade and manufactures.

## TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF CHESTER.

Journey from Chester to Parkgate; through Mollington.

THE ancient name of this city, it is said, was Neomagus, so called from Magus, son of Samothis, son of Japhet, its founder, 240 years after the flood; an assertion which is fully authenticated, and places it on a line of antiquity with any other city in the universe. Its second name, was Caerlleon, so called from Leon Vawr, or Gawr, who, as some writers say, was a giant in Albion, and one of its restorers; this conjecture, it is probable, may in some measure have originated from the circumstance of a human skeleton of prodigious size (some say nine feet in length) being dug up in Pepper-street.

Upon the settlement of the Britons here it was next called Caerlei1, and afterwards Caerleir, because these two British kings were enlargers and beautifiers of it, according to Stone and others. Before the Romans arrived here, it is probable this city was called Genuina or Gunia, as appeared from an inscription, on a votive altar, dug up here, and dedicated to Jupiter Taran, i. e. in the British language, the Thunderer; which language it is

likely the Romans might make use of in this inscrip-

tion, to convey to posterity an idea of their conquests over the Britons.

After the Romans had fixed here the conquering legion, Valens or Valens Victrix, it was then stiled Caerlhon, Caerlegion, or, as it is otherwise called, Ardourdwy, and Caer, by way of excellence, as Camden observes, to distinguish it from the other Caerleon, or Caerusk, in South Wales. The Latin historians stile it Cestria, from a camp which the Romans had fixed there. In latter ages it was stiled Legan Chester, and Lege Chester; but in these days West Chester, or Chester. By Ptolemy it is constituted.

sometimes called Oxcellum, Uxcellum, Plegimundam, and Leogria, or Locrinus land, of which the three first denote no more, as Hollingshed observes, than a rock, or place of strong defence; and which historians observe, was the boundary of King Locrinus's kingdom, westward: this was the chief city of the Ordivices, before the coming in of the Romans, as is affirmed by most of our ancient historians, which people were the inhabitants of North Wales.

The antiquity of this city is still more conspicuous from the stately remains of its ruins, which, Dr. Leigh says, were discovered at the commencement of the present century: these he describes as subterraneous vaults in cellars, through free-stone rock; the entrances into which were raised into several angles, and, from the description of the catacombs in Italy, it may reasonably be concluded they were made for the same purpose. They sufficiently demonstrate the greatness of the Roman power at Chester, signifying that they were resolved not only to keep incorporated while living, but also to preserve their very ashes together.

In these passages have been found many Roman coins, which more fully prove these vaults to have been the habitations of heathens, as has been observed in various other monasteries. From a coin of Geta, that was found, having the inscription of

## " COL. DIVANA 20 VICT."

it appears Chester was made a Roman colony, by Geta, when the southern parts of Britain were under his care, at the time his father, the emperor Severus, and his brother Caracalla, were advancing into Caledonia.

Before the end of the seventh century Chester was the see of a bishop, whose pastoral care extended over a part of the Mercian dominions. In the days of Arthur, grammar, philosophy, and the learned languages,

languages, were taught here. Coldway and Cadwan, two British kings, having defeated the Saxons, were crowned here; and a parliament was held in this city by the former.

Ethelwolf had the ceremony of his coronation performed here. It is likewise said, that Henry the Fourth, emperor of Germany, who married Maud, grand-daughter of William the Conqueror, and had imprisoned his father, the pope, and the cardinals, withdrew himself from the world, and lived a hermit, unknown as to his real character, at Chester, ten years; but death approaching, he discovered himself, and lies buried here.

When the great survey was taken by William the First, the earls, who had all the city, except what belonged to the bishop, paid gelt, or tribute, for 50 lides of land, 40 houses, and seven mint masters.

That it was a place of considerable importance in the time of the Romans cannot be denied; as, from them, it is confessed, originated an art, which has for ages distinguished the county of Chester from all others, that of making cheese, distinguished by the name of Cheshire cheese.

This ancient and pleasant city stands upon the borders of the river Dee, on the west side of the county, distant 20 miles south-east from the main sea; about 20 miles cast from Denbigh; 40 north from Shrewsbury; 46 north-west from Stafford; 76 north-west from Derby; and 75 south from Lancaster. Its lat. 53 deg. 15 min. north; and long. 3 deg. 2 min. west from London; its distance from

the latter city being 182 miles.

The inhabitants of Chester may be said to enjoy advantages which no other place of equal magnitude can boast of. Peculiarly favoured by Providence, the situation is as pleasing as the air is salubrious; as a proof of the latter the yearly bills of mortality furnish us with numberless instances of longevity. This, however, will be better elucidated

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by the insertion of the following comparative statement of the number of inhabitants that die annually in the under-mentioned places:

		one in			one in
Vienna -		191	Breslau -	-	25
London		203	Berlin -	-	261
Edinburgh	-	20	Shrewshury	-	263
Leeds -	-	21	Northampton	-	261
Dublin -	-	22	Liverpool	-	27 1
Rome	-	23	Manchester	-	28
Amsterdam .	-	24	Chester -	-	40

The population in Chester is said to be about 15000 souls, and yet is increasing: a stranger, on his first entrance into the city, might suppose that it is but thinly inhabited, the enveloped situation of the shops, which are mostly covered by rows, tending to hide a considerable portion of the people from the eye. Its foundation is chiefly on a dry sandy stone rock; a circumstance which may also contribute to its salubrity, and the longevity of its inhabitants.

Mr. Pennant, whose respectability as a tourist, and eminence as an author, are of the first rank, very concisely describes it in the following words; "The city is of a square form, which evinces the origin to have been Roman, being in the figure of their camps, with four gates forming the four points, four principal streets, and a variety of lesser, crossing the others at right angles, dividing the whole into lesser squares. The walls are built on a soft free stone rock, high above the circumjacent country," and are said to have been built by the Mercian lady Ethelfieda. The structure of the four principal streets is without a parallel; they run direct from east to west, and north to south, and were excavated out of the earth, and sunk many feet beneath the surface. The carriages are driven far below the level of the kitchens, on a line with ranges

of shops, over which passengers walk in galleries, which the inhabitants call the rows, secure from wet or heat. In the rows are likewise ranges of shops,

and steps to descend into the street.

Such is the antiquity of Chester that the stranger who can pass through, without bestowing on it some little share of attention, must have an incurious eye indeed. The exploring hand of time has at different periods presented to the antiquarian some valuable treasures; among these is a Roman altar, now in the possession of Mr. Dyson, erected by Flavius Longus, tribune of the victorious 20th legion, and his son Longinus, in honour of the emperors Dioclesian and Maximinian; another, discovered in 1633, (now at Oxford) inscribed to Jupiter; also a statue of Mithras, in the possession of the late Mr. Prescott. was discovered here; and a beautiful altar, with other Roman antiquities, were found in the year 1779. The coins of Vespasian, Constantius, Trajan, Hadrian, &c. have at different times been found : and there is little doubt but Chester is still rich in records of antiquity, which the researches of posterity may possibly discover.

In the 24th year of the last century, the remains of the illustrious Hugh Lupus, (first earl of Chester) were discovered in the chapter-house of the Cathedral, incased with stone, where the body has lain, in undisturbed security, upwards of 600 years; it was wrapped in leather, under which was the remnant of a shroud; at the head of the coffin was a stone, in the form of a Roman T, with the head of a wolf, in allusion to his name, cut thereon. His sword of dignity is now in the Museum, and if we may measure the prowess of the earl by the length of his sword, he must have been invincible indeed, the blade being little less than four feet long, and so very ponderous as to require more than a moderate share of strength even to brandish it. This great personage's court was princely; his parliament consisted of eight barons, who attended his person; every baron had four esquires, every esquire one gentleman, and every gentleman one valet. Such were the links in his chain of dignity. In the hands of the barons was reposed the power of life and death.

Hugh Lupus was succeeded by his son Richard, who, after governing 19 years, met a watery grave in his passage from Normandy; Richard's successor was Ranulph, his cousin, who died at Chester, in the year 1129, and was succeeded by the heroic Ranulph the Second, who, after a government of 25 years, fell a sacrifice to poison, in 1153. His remains were interred at Chester, and Hugh, his son, took the reins of government after him, which he held 28 years. After him the earldom was possessed by his son Ranulph, whose benevolence acquired him the title of Ranulph the Good. The cloud of superstition, which darkened the horizon of those times, overshadowed the native goodness of this earl's heart, and he entered the field with all that fury and fervour, which fanaticism alone can inspire; hence the holy wars proclaimed alike his prowess and his folly. Beeston Castle was erected by this earl.

At the demise of this earl, which happened in the year 1232, John, surnamed Scott, mounted the chair of state; he married Helen, daughter of Llewelyn ap Jorwerth, prince of North Wales, from which alliance no issue arising, at his death, (which is said to have been prematurely effected by poison) an extinction happened in the line of succession, and Henry the Third annexed the earldom to the crown, in the year 1237. From his hands it was transferred, by gift, to his son Edward, afterwards king Edward the First. The chance of war next gave it to Simon de Montford, who took both Henry and his son prisoners at the battle of Lewes, in the year 1264; their liberations were purchased by the resignation

resignation of the earldom of Montford, whose brow was adorned with this laurel of conquest but a very short period, as he resigned his honours with his life, at the battle of Evesham, not twelve months after. It next devolved to Edward of Caernarvon, son of Edward the First, who enjoyed it 19 years, when his son, Edward of Windsor, succeeded. A period of 11 years had barely elapsed, when Edward the Black Prince, took the reins of government, From him it devolved to his son, Richard of Bourdeaux. who, in the 21st year of his reign, erected Chester into a principality; an honour which was cancelled in the first year of Henry the Fourth.

His son, afterwards the great Henry the Fifth, (who was the scourge of France) next succeded; and after him Henry the Sixth, whose life was cruelly violated and taken, after the battle of Tewkes-

bury.

In the year 1471, Edward the Fifth, (eldest son of Edward the Fourth), was created earl of Chester; but he with his brother Richard (duke of York) fell by that ambitious monster, Richard the Third; whose only affspring, Edward, was next created earl in the year 1483; the subsequent year, however, putting a period to his life, Arthur (son of king Henry the Seventh) was next created, who was succeeded by his brother Henry, in the year 1504.

A long period was suffered to clapse ere the next earldom took place, which was in the person of Henry Frederic Stuart, son of James the First, in 1610; he dying without issue, Charles, his brother, succeeded, in 1616, afterwards Charles the First, who, 14 years after, transferred the earldom to his son Charles, afterwards Charles the Second.

A period of more than 80 years elapsed, ere the next earldom was created; which was not till the present illustrious House of Hanover ascended the throne of the kingdom; when, in 1714, George,

son of George the First, succeeded; and after him in 1728, Frederic, our second George's eldest son; in his hands it remained till the year 1750, when his present majesty succeeded to it; and in 1762, it was translated to George Augustus Frederick, prince of Wales, his eldest son, the present earl.

After this account of the earls, we shall revert to the history of this ancient city; which has, at different periods, been the seat of many remarkable

events.

Here it was that the Caledonian king, Malcolm the Fourth, in 1159, ceded to our second Henry all the lands that the fortune of war had wrested from

the crown of England.

In the year 1255 Chester experienced all the horrors of warfare: Llewelyn ap Gryflydd, prince of Wales, invaded it with an arm of deselation, carrying fire and sword to its very gates; and such is the revolution of things, this city was selected by Edward the First, as the place for Llewelyn to do him homage; that prince, however, consistent with the native ambition of his mind, spurned at the command; but the refusal ended with his own ruin, and the loss of his principality; for in 1300, Edward of Caernarvon received here the final acknowledgement of the Welsh to the sovereignty of the English crown.

Chester was the favourite city of Richard the Second, who honoured it with his presence in 1397; and two years afterwards he was lodged close prisoner in the castle, which had been seized into the hands of our fourth Henry, who cancelled the lives of several of Richard's adherents and favourites.

Chester has, at several periods, been honoured with the presence of royalty; in the year 1459, Henry the Sixth, with Queen Margaret, and her son Edward, paid a visit here; and, as a small, but grateful, tribute of respect, to those gentlemen of

the county, who were attached to her cause, she

presented them with small silver swans.

In the year 1493, Henry the Seventh and his queen, graced the city with their presence. In 1617, Henry Button, esq. mayor, had the honour of presenting James the First with a cup, beautifully gilt, and in it 100 jacobins of gold, as a rich mark of the city's attachment to his crown and person.

No memorable incident occured from this period till the reign of Charles the First, when, in consequence of the loyalty of its inhabitants to that monarch, Chester was besieged by the parliament forces; and such were the distresses of the unfortunate citizens, that they were driven to the sad alternative of eating the flesh of horses, dogs, and cats: nor did they surrender, notwithstanding this shocking necessity, till they had procured terms from their besiegers that did honour to the spirit and valour of the citizens. This surrender happened on the third of February, 1645-6. Forty-five years after, in the year 1690, King William visited Chester; and, during the reign of this monarch, it was remarkable for having a coinage of silver currency; at which time Chester was selected as one of the six cities in the kingdom, for the residence of an assaymaster.

The stranger who has never seen the city-walls can entertain but a very faint idea of the convenience and pleasure which they afford: their circumference is one mile, three quarters, and 101 yards. For the excellent state of preservation in which they are kept we are indebted to the trading opulence and mercantile spirit of the gentlemen in the linen branch, belonging to our sister kingdom; a kind of murage duty, of twopence on every hundred yards of linen imported, being paid for the purpose. They were evidently intended as fortifications; time however razed its towers, so that only one remains, known by the name of Phonix Tower, a situation

a situation remarkable for being the place where King Charles I. retired to see the battle of Rowton-moor, where his army, under Sir Marmaduke Langdale, was defeated by General Pointz. The views which the walls command are various and extensive, enriched with enlivening scenes, variegated landscapes, and delightful prospects. In short, no walk can be better calculated either for health or pleasure.

Three very handsome and spacious arches, at the east, west, and south entrances, have been all finished within these few years, and nothing remains but the erection of a similar arch at the north, to complete an uniformity much wanted. At the north gate

stands the city goal.

The keeping of the gates was once reckoned so honourable an office that it was claimed by several noble families; as East-gate, by the Earl of Oxford: Bridge-gate, by the Earl of Shrewsbury; Watergate, by the Earl of Derby; North-gate, by the mayor the city. On the east side of the city is a postern, which was shut up by one of its mayors, because his daughter, who had been at stool-ball with some maidens in Pepper-street, was stolen and conveyed away through this gate; this has occasioned a proverb here, "When the daughter is stolen, shut the Pepper-gate." The city is well supplied with water from the river Dee by mills, and the watertower, which is one of the gates of the bridge. The centre of the city, where the four streets meet facing the cardinal points, is called the Pentice, from whence there is a pleasant prospect of all four at once.

Edward the Black Prince was the person who prescribed the boundaries of the city; which extend, westward, from a spot called Iron-bridge, (on the Eaton road) across the Wrexham turnpike-road, down to the Leach; then crossing Saltney-marsh, near the second mile-stone, and the river, lead up

to Blacon-point; and along the course of the old river, turning up to stone bridge, and along the brook side, cross the Parkgate road, and lead up to Beach-pool; and by the side of the brook, lead to Flooker's-brook; then crossing the canal, and the two turnpike roads to London, lead down to the river side, opposite to Iron-bridge; making, in the whole, about eight miles. The limits of the port of Chester are the end of Wirral; to which place the official duty of the city coroner extends.

In the centre of the city, near the junction of the four principal streets, is the cross, where St. Peter's Church stands, supposed to be situated on the scite of the Roman Prætorium; this cross is famous for being the annual scene of the exhibition of bull-baiting. It is no great length of time since the mayor and corporation used to attend in their official habiliments, at the Pentice (the seat of magistracy, and where the town office is kept), not only to countenance the diversions of the ring, but to participate in a sight of its enjoyments. A proclamation was also made by the crier of the court, the composition of which ran thus: "Oyez! oyez! oyez! If any man stand within twenty yards of the bull-ring, let him take—what comes." After which followed the usual public ejaculation, for "the safety of the king and the mayor of the city;" when the scene commenced, and the dogs immediately fell to. The late Dr. Cowper is said to have had the merit, when mayor, of putting a stop to the attendance of the corporate body on those days; and Mr. Alderman Brodhurst, in his mayoralty, made a laudable but ineffectual effort to suppress this relic of barbarism.

The four principal streets are East-gate-street, Water-gate-street, Bridge-street, and North-gate-street. The first is large and spacious; the second rather narrow and contracted; the third, wide and airy; and the latter, in some parts, equally so. Such is the venerable

nerable appearance of many ranges of dwellings, that they may be said to present to the eye, as it were a model of every thing antique in the universe.—Where, in some places, new built houses are intermixed with old ones, the appearance is motley and grotesque: to see a modern mansion, just finished, standing between two gothic structures, the youngest probably no less than 200 years old, gives the beholder an idea (if the allusion may be allowed) of the picture of a fine gentlemen of the present day, placed between the portraitures of a brace of beaus of the days of Queen Elizabeth.

Passing through the East-gate, you enter Foregate-street, which is about 572 yards in length; and, in general, 18 in breadth. From this street issue Cow-lane and Queen-street on the left, and John's-street and Love-lane on the right. Queen-street has not been built many years, its situation is pleasant and airy; in it is a large well-built chapel, the place of worship of a sect of independents; also a reputable academy, for the education of youth.

Love-lane is celebrated for a manufacture of tobacco pipes. A little below Love-lane, not a great many years past, stood a strong postern-gate, called the Bars, dividing Foregate-street from Boughton; not far from which stands the Octagon, a chapel for

Dissenters.

Boughton is a large and wide street, on the London road. A little beyond are Barrel-well, and the Cherry-gardens; the former containing an excellent cold bath, and the latter a delightful rural prome-

nade, during the summer season.

At the opposite point of the city to the above is Watergate-street, which leads into Goss-lane, Crook's-lane, Trinity-lane, Weaver's-lane, Lower-lane, and Nicholas-street. Crook's-lane contains a Presbyte-rian chapel, erected in the time of the late Rev. Matthew Henry, of pious memory, early in the present century. Nearly opposite to Nicholas-street is his Maiesty's

Majesty's custom house; and a little lower down is the New Linen-hall, erected by the Irish merchants, in the year 1778, containing 111 shops, inclosing a pleasant and spacious area. Near this place, on the opposite side of the way, was a religious house of Grey Friars, the date of which is in the reign of

Henry the Eighth.

About twenty years ago, in a field contiguous to the Water-gate, where a range of well-built houses now stands, some labourers discovered, very little below the surface, the remains of a Roman hypocaust and sudatory, or sweating-bath, with a beautiful Roman altar, inscribed to Assculapius. But the whole was unfortunately destroyed by the rude hand of ignorance before a drawing of them could be

Immediately on passing through the Water-gate, you enter Crane street, the right side of which consists of new uniformly-arranged houses; on the left are some genteel dwellings, denominated, in allusion

to their pleasant situation, Paradise-row.

taken.

Opposite to these is that beautiful piece of ground called the Roodee, where the races are annually run the first week in May; a diversion for which this spot is perhaps better calculated than any other in the kingdom, not a single yard of the view being lost by the spectator in any situation. The Roodee is remarkable for being the place of interment of an image of the Virgin Mary, with a very large cross. in the year 946. The place of the residence of this pious lady was in a Christian temple at Harwarden. in Flintshire, where, in those days of superstition, they used to offer up their orisons to this idol. To her they applied for relief in all their affliction; till at last it happened, while they were on their knees invoking her, that she fell upon the head of the governor of the castle's wife, Lady Trawst, and killed her. For this offence the goddess was banished the place, and thrown on the sands of the river; whence she was carried away by the tide, and next day found near the place called Roodee; on which the idol was interred, with all due pomp, by the inhabitants of Chester, and a large stone erected over the grave, a memento of the ignorance of those days.

On the west side of the Roodee stands the Asylum for age and indigence, the House of Industry,

which seldom contains less than 200 persons.

Nearly adjoining is the New River (cut through a large space of white sands, in 1735-6), which is navigable for vessels of 350 tons burthen. Here are excellent conveniences for ship-building, in which the artizans of Chester particularly excel. From the quays are exported large cargoes of that excellent

cheese for which this country is so famous.

Northgate-street is about 440 yards long, the entrance into which was, till within some years ago, much incommoded by a projection of shops, which have, by voluntary subscription, been removed.—On the right of this stands the theatre-royal. No circumstance can evince the strange mutations to which things are liable more than this place, which was originally a chapel, dedicated to St. Nicholas, and devoted to religion; afterwards a common-hall, devoted to justice; next a warehouse, devoted to trade; and now a play-house, devoted to amusement.

The regular market for fish and vegetables is in the square opposite to the Exchange, where the supply, in general, is plentiful and tolerably reasonable. In that useful article, salmon, no market in the kingdom did some years ago excel it; indeed, such was the profusion of this valuable fish, that masters were often restricted, by a clause in the indenture, from giving it more than twice a week to their apprentices. The market is kept on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The Exchange is a large handsome pile, supported by five columns in the centre. It is 126 feet long

and 46 broad; and has a row of shops on the west side. It was erected in the year 1698, during the mayoralty of Colonel Robert Whitley. The quarter sessions, and the annual election of city officers, are held here in a large commodious common-hall. The Exchange also contains a mansion-house, for the occasional entertainment of the corporate body, in which the winter assemblies for the tradespeople are held; here is also a well-chosen subscription library.

A little beyond the Exchange stands the three flesh-shambles, for the reception of country butchers, which occupy a considerable part of the street; upon the centre one is placed a cistern or reservoir of water (conveyed by pipes from the water-works at the bridge), which supplies the dwellings in the Abbey-court, and the adjacent ones in that part of the

city.

On the west side of the Shambles is Parsons-lane, or Princes-street, leading to a pleasant and airy range of building, called St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; opposite to which, adjoining to the walls, stands, in a most delightful and salubrious situation, the Infirmary, a very spacious and elegant building, erected in the year 1761, the comfortable retreat of disease and penury, from every part of the county, the city,

and North Wales.

On the east of the shambles is the entrance into the Abbey-court; over the gateway of which is the register-office, where wills are deposited. The Abbey-court is a neat and pleasant square, with an obelisk in the centre, surrounded by a large circle of iron pallisadoes; the houses regularly and handsomely built; on the south side is the bishop's palace, a large stone pile, erected in the year 1753. The Gothic structure of St. Thomas's Chapel has been very judiciously taken down, and, on the scite thereof, a spacious mansion is erected. The Abbeystreet leads to the walls, and to the kale-yards; in

former times this ground was the kitchen garden of

the church.

Immediately on passing through the North-gate, on the left, as you enter Further North-gate-street, stands the Blue-coat school; adjoining to which is the chapel, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. This seminary which receives a certain number of poor boys, furnishing them with education, board, and apparel, besides a small sum as an apprentice-fee, is a nost exemplary institution, and as such meets with liberal support. There is also a Blue-School for girls, and a Green-cap-school for boys; which, in addition to the Sunday-schools, are all supported by voluntary subscription. Behind the Blue-coat school, are six alms-houses, each of which contains one old woman. On the opposite side of the street, stands the Bridewell, or house of correction.

Bridge-street is open and spacious; its length from the cross to the bridge is 553 yards. On the west side is Common-hall-lane, so called from being the place where the common-hall of the city once stood. Near the Plume of Feathers inn, in the above street, is a Roman bath, but the only part observable is the hypocaust, the form of which is rectangular, supported by 32 pillars, two feet, ten inches, and a half high, and about 18 inches distant from each other. Upon each is a tile, 18 inches square, and over them a perforated tile, two feet square; which appears over all the pillars, standing on a mortar floor spread over the rock. The smoke issued through a vent on the south side. Here is an antichamber, where the slaves attended to heat the place. The persons who used to participate in this warm enjoyment sat in an apartment above, called the sweating-chamber.

Lower down is White-Friars-lane, so called from a convent of Carmelites, or white friars, in St. Martin's parish. On the opposite side of the way, a little lower down, is Pepper-street, which leads on

the left to Newgate-street, and on the right to Ninehouses, and to Duke-street. On the right of Lower Bridge-street, is Cuppin's-lane, a name derived from a cupping-house or bagnio being formerly therein. This leads to Martin's-ash, also through Bunce-lane, to Glover-stone and the Castle.

"In St. Martin's parish was a convent of Benedictine nuns, dedicated to St. Mary; which fell in the general devastation of religious houses, in the year

1537.

Glover-stone is remarkable for separating the castle from the city, and is a part of the county, where non-freeman may exercise their trades in undis-turbed security. Here the bodies of unfortunate convicts are delivered into the custody of the citysheriffs for execution: a custom accounted for only by tradition, that when the city, by Henry the Seventh's charter, was made a county of itself, the citizens, to prevent any infraction of their territories, voluntarily took upon themselves this sad and melancholy office, rather than the county officers should exercise the least authority within their jurisdiction. Another tradition says, that a culprit was once rescued from the jaws of death, on his way to the fatal tree, by the citizens, for which this disagreeable task has been since inflicted upon their successors, by way of punishment.

The Castle consists of two wards, upper and lower; the entrance into each of which is strongly guarded by ponderous gates, having round bastions on each side; time having undermined the battlements of the upper ward, fronting the walls, they have been rebuilt. Here are convenient apartments and lodging rooms for the judges of the circuit, furnished at the expence of the city sheriffs. The Shite-hall (which was the state apartments of Hugh Lupus before-mentioned) is lofty and spacious, consistent with the hospitality and dignity of the first?

p 3 Norma

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Norman earl. A considerable part of this hall is taken down.

Below the entrance of Castle-street is an ancient mansion, which is rendered memorable for being the residence of Charles the First, during the siege

of the city.

Opposite to Castle-street is Clare-lane. On passing through the arch at the bottom of Bridge-street, you go over a bridge of seven arches, inconveniently narrow and contracted, when you enter a handbridge, stiled by the Welsh, Tre Boeth, or Burnt Town; which leads on the right to Wrexham and

Northop, and on the left to Eaton-doat.

In a field contiguous to Handbridge is a rock, on the front of which is cut, Dea Armigera, Minerva, with her bird and altar. This is said to be the spot where the palace of the ambitious Edgar stood, though not a vestige remains to confirm the assertion. From this part of the river the above monarch (in the year 973) had the singular felicity of being rowed, by eight subordinate and tributary kings, to the monastery of St. John the Baptist.

The cathedral stands on the east side of the Northgate-street; the reigns of Henry the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth, are mentioned as the periods in which the greater part of this sacred edifice (now

remaining) was erected.

Simon Ripley, chosen abbot in the year 1485, built the broad aisle. The abbey which gave birth to this see was of such antiquity as to have been a nunnery, more than 1100 years ago, founded by Wulpherus, king of the Mercians, for his daughter St. Werburgh; who took the veil, after living three years with her husband, Ceoliedus, in a state of vestal purity.

The buildings were next restored by Ethelfleda, of pious memory, and the nuns supplanted by a set of canons. These pieces of holy ordnance were, in their turn, discharged by Hugh Lupus; who placed

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here a body of Benedictines, who were dissolved at

the reformation by Henry the Eighth.

The neatness of the choir, and the Gothic appearance of the tabernacle work, have a pleasing effect on the eye. The bishop's throne, which is superbly ornamented, is said to have been the ancient shrine of St. Werburg; it is encircled by a beautiful group of small images, intended to represent saints and kings of Mercia. Some of these, having been much defaced, were repaired some years ago, but in a most bungling manner.

Here are several elegant monuments, particularly one to the memory of Sir William Mainwaring, a young officer, who fell in defence of the city, during the siege. The broad aisle has of late been much enriched by the erection of a few monuments; among which is one to the memory of the late dean Smith; another to the memory of Mr. Ogden, surgeon; a third to the memory of Mr. Philips, an American loyalist; and a fourth, to the memory of

the late Chancellor Peploe.

In the year 1787, the remains of Thomas Birchelseg, otherwise Lythellis, chaplain to King Edward the First, and abbot of this cathedral in 1291, were taken up in a lead coffin, near the altar in the choir, after having been in the earth 465 years! The appearance of the body evinced; that some endeavours had been used to preserve it from putrefaction, which partially succeeded, the legs, arms, head, and even the features of the face, appearing in an astonishing state of preservation.

Behind the choir is St. Mary's chapel, where prayers are read at the hour of six every morning, Adjoining the entrance into this chapel stands a tomb, said to contain the remains of Henry the Fourth, emperor of Germany. The north transept is very spacious, and is the parish church of St. Oswald: a chapel of ease to this church stands more than four miles from Chester. On the north side of

the

the broad aisle are the cloisters; in which is that beautiful and well finished edifice the chapter-house, where the bones of several earls and abbots lay in peaceful obscurity. It is 50 feet in length, 26 in width, and 35 in height. The supposition is, that it was erected by Randal Meschines, earl of Chester, who died in the year 1128. In the cloister is a flight of steps, which led to the dormitory, kitchen, and cellars, of the venerable monks.

Here is an excellent free-school for 24 boys,

founded by King Henry the Eighth.

There are in this see, two archdeaconries, Chester and Richmond; it is a suffragan to York; and the diocese includes Cheshire and Lancashire, a part of Cumberland, Westmoreland, Flintshire, and Denbighshire. It contains 256 parishes, 101 of which are impropriate. The bishopric is valued in the king's books at 4201. 1s. 8d. and the tenths of the clergy amount to 4351. 12s. per annum. The first bishop of Chester was John Bird, in the year 1541.

The church of St. John Baptist stands without the walls, in a most delightful situation, on the east side of the city; it was once collegiate, and was founded by King Ethelred in 689, in consequence of a visionary admonition to build it on the spot where he should find a white hind. The west side of the steeple now presents an imperfect figure of this legend. The church is a magnificent pile, and evidently of Saxon origin; there are no remains of the north and south transepts, and a great part of the east end is demolished by the fall of the centre tower. The chapel above the old choir (now the parish church) present melancholy pictures of the ravages of time; to the eye of the antiquary these ruins are a rich feast. Here is an anchorite's cell, where Harold, after the defeat of Hastings, is said to have closed his eyes.

St. Peter's church is in the centre of the city, and had, some time ago, a lofty spire steeple; the

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TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION. want of which, at present, makes a very naked ap-

pearance.

Trinity church stands in Watergate-street; the inside has been some years since enlarged, which has added much to its convenience and beauty. It has a handsome spire steeple.

St. Bridget's, though small, is neat and convenient, having undergone at different times, several considerable improvements. It is situated on the west

side of Bridge-street.

St. Michael's is situated exactly opposite St. Bridget's; a circumstance which gives them the appellation of the two churches. It is also neat and convenient, and some years ago was beautified and improved.

St. Mary's church stands on the south-west part of the city; the inside is ornamented with some beautiful monuments of the Gamul and Troutbeck families.

St. Olave's stands in the lower part of Bridge-

street, opposite Castle-street.

St. Martin's stands at a place called the Ash, in the south-west part of the city; it has also been

much improved.

Exclusive of the above-mentioned places of worship, there are no less than six conventicles for dissenters of different denominations. There is also a chapel for Roman-catholics.

In addition to the charities already noticed, there is an excellent foundation for 30 decayed freemen, to each of whom is allowed the sum of 4l. annually, and a gown every third year; every candidate must

be beyond his 60th year.

The late Mr. Owen Jones, butcher, (one of the donors to this charity), bequeathed the annual profits of an estate in Denbighshire, to the poor of the several city companies, in rotation; which bequest, though only a few pounds at first, now, from the singular discovery of a lead-mine thereon, produces little less than 400l. per annum.

There

There are 30 almshouses in Chester, exclusive of six behind the Blue-coat school; namely, ten in St. Michael's parish; four in St. John's; six in Commonhall-lane; six in St. Olave's parish; and four in Trinity.

In the year 1772, a horrid explosion happened at Chester, on the anniversary night of the gunpow-der-plot, when a large stone building, up an entry in Water-gate-street, occupied by George Williams, a puppet-sliew man was blown up, and out of 140 people assembled 31 were killed, most of them upon the spot. It was occasioned by several barrels of powder having been lodged under the building. The shock was felt several miles round thecity.

The existence of a corporation in Chester is very ancient: according to King's Vale Royal, the first mayor was Sir Walter Lymur, Knight, in 1242, who enjoyed the office several years; his successor was William Clark, Esq. who continued in the chair eight years; the third was John Arnway, who enjoyed it five years; a period of time, which altogether nearly comprehended the reign of Henry the Third. Since which time the city has continued to be governed by a mayor, recorder, two sheriffs, twenty-four aldermen, and forty common-council men; to which are annexed a sword-bearer, macebearer, yeoman, crier, four sergeants-at-mace, and a porter.

The first recorder is said to have been elected by the charter of Henry the Seventh, dated the 21st of April, 1505, when Ralph Birkenhead, Esq. was chosen. This office was till lately filled by the late R. Townshend, Esq. who enjoyed it more than 30 years; on his resignation, the late Thomas Cow-

per, of Overlegh, Esq. was cnosen.

The year 1543, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, is recorded as the origin of representation for this city and county; when a summons was received to send two knights for the county, and two citizens for the city, to parliament.

From

From the earliest accounts of the constitution of Chester, it was mercatory guild, or corporation of merchants and artifacers; and that it was the most important among its contemporaries, may be inferred from its being well known as the western emporium of commerce in the island; and its two great annual fairs, granted by the first earls, are an existing evidence of its ancient commercial consequence. Its trade, in the time of Edward the First, was so considerable, that it paid a fee-farm rent to the crown of 1001. but, the harbour being cheaked with sand, the trade was necessarily transferred to Liverpool, as the nearest and most convenient port.

The corporation, or guild, consisted of 24 companies; over each presided an alderman, who, according to the ancient customs, was annually elected. There were two officers called keepers of the guild. who admitted freemen, received customs, rents, and fees, and who, we may suppose, were the primitive leave-lookers. These, with the sheriffs, who derived their authority from the earl and the murengers, probably existed before there was a mayor. It does not appear when the latter chief magistrate was introduced into the corporation; for a charter of Henry the Third mentions him as then being. and not as then created. It is however evident that all the above offices existed before the charter of Henry the Seventh, dated April 6, 1506: for this granted no new offices or privileges: it confirmed the ancient customs of the place, and gave a sacred and inviolable sanction to the original right every citizen had to chuse all the principal officers of the corporation; but the official power and authority was, by the united efforts of intrigue and violence, rendered perpetual in this city, as well as in every other in the kingdom. To this may be attributed the office of alderman, that was originally but annual, being now, in this and every other corporation, held for life. Ambition thus availed

itself

itself of the natural prejudices, and the most grateful affections of mankind, to subject them to their oppression, by seducing them to resign their independence. When an alderman had, by good behaviour, excited the gratitude and rivetted the attachment of his elective citizens, he was frequently retained in his office, when the safety of municipal privilege should have obliged him to resign. this manner the best of moral actions were the destruction of the most valuable privileges. Those who were thus allowed to continue in office longer than the time prescribed by custom and constitu-tion, assumed the temporary sufferance of their electors as an indefeasible right for life. Knowing they should have no chance of being chosen chief magistrate while they were liable to be removed from their aldermanship by annual election, they chose rather to violate the rights of their fellow citizens than lose an opportunity of gratifying their lust for power and vanity for eminence. This infringement of privilege arose from the mayor not being chosen among those who had been aldermen, as well as those who were, and this defect in the municipal policy may be assigned as the cause of aldermen holding now their offices for life who before held them only for a year.

In the year 1554 it appears that the mayor appointed the common-council men. In 1574, the confirmation which Elizabeth gave, in the sixth year of her reign, to the charter of Henry the Seventh, was, by the immaculate corporation, surrendered for one that was more favourable to the encroachments they had made, on the privileges of their fellow citizens. In 1604, James the First gave a confirmation of the charter; this seemed to have less sincerity than compliment. His majesty attempting, the year following, to nominate a recorder, is an evidence of that royal interference in the affairs of corporations which began in this reign, and was carried.

carried to such a dangerous excess by succeeding kings as almost to threaten an entire subversion of the few privileges charters had restored to the

people.

In the year 1662, Lord Biereton, Sir Peter Leicester, Sir Richard Grosvenor, and Sir Geoffry Shackerby, acting as commissioners, for regulating the corporation, endeavoured to remove several aldermen and common councilmen, who appeared too much attached to the interests of their fellow ci-

tizens to be the avowed tools of governments.

To this origin may be traced those divisions and animosities, which have frequently risen to such an alarming height in this city, and which can scarcely be said to have subsided. To such a degree was popular discord carried, that, at a parliamentary election in 1672, the Recorder, Mr. William Williams, and Colonel Warden, who had been gentlemen of the bed-chamber to the Duke of York, afterwards James the Second, being opponent candidates, eight men were killed in the crowd, at the foot of the stairs of the common-hall; and the poll was in consequence adjourned to the Roodee. This is one of those unfortunate and disgraceful casualties that too frequently attend those times when the people are called together to exercise their elective privileges at a period; when the voters of this kingdom should be suffered to chuse their representatives, with that peace, order, and decency, which ought to characterise the constitution of a parliament, discords are fomented and outrage abetted. The people are at first intoxicated, and afterwards bullied out of their reason; the very instant in which they are assembled to preserve their lives, rights, and properties, privilege is banished, rapine, encouraged, and murder committed. These are the blessings we have enjoyed ever since a seat in parliament has been more advantageous to the representative than the constituents. To countenance

such

such proceedings, encroachments were made on this and all other corporations. In this general abridgment of independence, the charter of Chester was altered; for, in 1676, a new charter was made, which, although it left the right of election, as prescribed in that of Henry the Seventh, unaltered; it introduced several innovations, with respect to the election of all the corporate offices, so as to render their possessors more immediately dependent on the sovereign.

The opposite parties, being nearly equal in strength and affluence, agreed for a time to divide

the representation.

The great subject of dispute between Charles the Second and his parliament, was the excluding his brother, the Duke of York, a professed papist, from succeeding to the crown. No sooner had the King called them together, for the purpose of obtaining supplies, than a bill of exclusion was agitated, and made the sine qua non of every pecuniary grant; and such were the apprehensions of the consequences of the duke's accession to the crown that even that part of the nation who were zealously attached to the king's person, and the more sensible and moderate, supported the measure of exclusion. Every election consequently produced new advocates for it in the House of Commons, in defiance of all the strenuous efforts of court influence. As money could not be had without parliaments, nothing remained but for the crown to attempt the acquisition of such a decided sway in the choice of members, as to render al! opposition too feeble to counteract their designs; it was therefore imagined, and not without reason, that this might be effected, by assuming the power of nominating the officers of corporations into the hands of the king; and this was only to be effected by the demolition of a charter. A plan was formed for this purpose of avowed tyranny. Some boroughs were terrified, and others cajoled.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION. joled, into a surrender of their charters; and against those that were obstinate, informations, in the nature of a quo warranto, were filed. These violent proceedings soon evinced that the court were determined to establish their arbitrary designs. With these views, there were not wanting in Chester men who were ready to adopt any measure, however despotic, provided they were permitted to share the unconstitutional authority. To this end, a voluntary surrender of their old charter was attempted; but the measure, being too despotic, proved abortive. It was therefore necessary to have recourse to compulsion. An information was filed, and the result was that judgment was given that the liberties of Chester should be seized into the King's hands, until the court should further order, which was accordingly executed, by a writ of seizure. A rule of final judgment being given next term, and the corporation shewing no cause against it, a farther rule for entry of that judgment was made, which, however, from some neglect, was omitted.
The Tories availed themselves of these circumstances to obtain a new charter, have their own mayor, and to fill the corporation entirely with their own creatures. Regardless of the reproaches and execrations of their fellow citizens, whom they had thus despoiled of those rights restored to them by charter, they triumphed in the smiles and sunshine of court-favour; and, as if tyranny had completely vanquished the patriotism of Chester, a tablet was placed over the pentice-door, with an inscription importing "that the new charter was acceptable

to all good men."
So venal and dependent the corporation became aftewards, that, when James the Second visited this city, the recorder, Leving, at the head of the corporation, thus addressed him: "The corporation is your majesty's creature, and depends merely on the will of its creator; and the sole intimation

of your majesty's pleasure shall ever have with us

the force of a fundamental law."

When James made an alteration in most of the charters in the kingdom, the like attempt was made on the city of Chester; but the independent citizens, conceiving, that this offer was only made to seduce them into a resignation of their religious liberty, unanimously refused its acceptance, and desired to have their ancient charter of Henry the Seventh restored. Thus, through the dismission of the corporation created by Charles's charter, and the non-acceptance of that of James, the city was destitute, nearly three months, of magistrates, and the election-day passed, without any officers being chosen. The king, indeed, was at that time busily employed, in endeavouring to repair the wrong steps which were effecting his ruin, particularly by replacing all the corporations on their former footing; the greatest care was taken that no force might be wanting to restore the ancient franchises to Chester.

On the 18th of November, after the Prince of Orange had landed on the 4th, the corporation reassumed its ancient privileges. In 1692 it was acknowledged by all that the charter of restitution had, to every intent and purpose, revived the ancient franchises; among which that of electing aldermen and common-councilmen, by the citizens at large, was as expressly granted as any other; and, as it presented a probable remedy against the incroachments of aristocratic power, it was resolved

that it should be adopted.

In October 1692, Colonel Whitely was chosen mayor, and so pure and patriotic was his conduct that he continued in the mayoralty four years successively. Being obliged to retire from the fatigue of his office, he convened, a few days before this event, the corporation, and presented them a set of regulations for their future choice of aldermen and

common-councilmen. These were so excellent that they were unanimously received, and deserved the approbation of every honest and sensible mind. This worthy citizen being succeeded by one of opposite principles, the freedom of the corporation was again subverted, by causing the elections of the city-officers to be made by a select body. This was opposed by the citizens at large, in a petition, signed by Roger Whitely, and ten others; which, however, after great struggles, proved ineffectual.

In the year 1698 the citizens were convened, and, by some artful means, persuaded to elect the whole body, and then to vote that they should continue in their offices, according to ancient custom. Thus was entirely destroyed the ancient privilege of an-

nual elections in the corporation.

A general election approaching in 1734, both parties began to muster their forces. This proved to be one of the severest contests which the city had ever experienced. Their passions already inflamed, and conscious of the enormous weight of influence against them, the Whigs were driven into excesses, which would have been inexcusable on any other occasion.

It was apprehended that the corporation, having the power of making freemen in their own hands, might procure as many votes as they wanted. Some of the aldermen, having assembled together in the Pentice, at a late hour, on the Tuesday night preciding the election, suspicion arose that the whole night was to be employed in admitting to the freedom of the city as many of their party as they could conveniently introduce. A mob presently assembled about the Pentice, where they broke open the door, assaulted and drove out the aldermen, and damaged considerably the windows and furniture.

Their adversaries, feeling their inferiority in this kind of contest, resolved to call in foreign assistance:

the following day, therefore, a large body of colliers, and other countrymen, were brought from the neighbourhood of Wrexham, by the direction and under the influence of Mr. W. W. Wynne. The citizens hearing of their approach, retired into the castle, and there armed themselves with old swords, helmets, and breast-pieces; and, thus formidably accoutered, sallied forth to meet their foes. A bloody encounter ensued in Bridge-street; and the Welshmen, after several of them were dangerously wounded, were soon routed and put to flight. It was now agreed that hostilities should cease, and some plan be settled for conducting the election in a peaceable and regular manner. The poll continued from Friday to Monday; and both parties so exerted themselves as to bring votes from the most distant parts of the kingdom, and even from Ireland, in direct contradiction to the charter, which limits these elections to be made commorant citizens. The majority, as might be expected, was in favour of the corporation member; but no sooner were the books closed, and the mayor and his attendants retired from the hustings, than they were obliged to retreat into the Exchange Coffee-house. They were, however, not here secure, for the mob broke in, seized the sword and mace, and, chairing their favourite candidate, bore him to his house in triumph.

As the corporation still exercised their overbearing influence, recourse was had to the only remedy against exorbitant power, which is that of recurring to its original and constitutional source, the peeple. Informations were accordingly brought against the mayor, 10 aldermen, and 18 common-council, for usurping the privilege of electing aldermen, exclusive of the commonalty. After a considerable contest, the Tories prevailed; and the Whigs, from disappointment and exhausted finances, seemed to have been for that time entirely dispirited and disunited. In the year 1747 an attempt was made to bully

them.

them, under auspices which seemed to insure success. It appeared that at the election of 1734, the right of non-resident freemen to vote had been questioned; and it was now resolved to try the issue. The minister, to whom the Grosvenor family was ininical, encouraged Baron Mainwaring to oppose administration. They were probably induced to this from the hope that if the questiou concerning non-residents should be agitated, his support would not be wanting. The election was carried on with all the heat and violence of former times; and the Tory party, counting the non-residents, had

the majority. A petition was presented, and the enquiry commenced, which clearly tended to establish the right of election in resident freemen only. And now Sir Robert Grosvenor found himself in a very disagreeable dilemma: he considered that his interest in Westminster must be devoted to the minister, or he should be obliged to resign one representation for his hereditary borough, to which he could by no means consent. But as it was no novelty in his family to change principles, for the purpose of preserving the superiority in Chester, a compromise was made the evening before the final issue of the petition; and, notwithstanding the resolutions of the preceding day, the counsel for the petitioners were instructed to say, "that they would give the house no farther trouble." Thus was the baron made the victim of ministerial duplicity. We may therefore rejoice at the day that Mr. Grenville's act placed the issue of contested elections in more impartial hands than those of an influenced majority of the House of Commons.

From the above and other succeeding circumstances respecting the conduct of the corporation and their opponents, it is evident that the former have always endeavoured to preserve their power by abridging and extinguishing the liberties of the

people as much as they posssibly could, while the latter have always endeavoured to found their pride and distinction on the defence of the rights and pri-

vileges of their fellow citizens.

This city being the capital of a county palatine did not send members to the national parliament before they were granted the privilege by charter, given in the 34th year of Henry VIII. The right of election was determined, December 2, in the year 1690, to be in the freemen.

Chester is situated 182 miles from London, and contains, according to the late returns, 3,194 houses, inhabited by 3,427 families, which consist of 15,052 persons, viz. 6,492 males, and 8,560 females, of whom 2,149 were returned as being employed in

manufacture, and 402 in agriculture.

On leaving Chester, we proceed in a north-westerly direction, and at the distance of two miles and a half pass the village of MOLLINGTON; on the right of which is Mollington Hall, a spacious brick edifice, for many years the property and residence of the ancient and respectable lamily of the Hunts; but has lately been purchasen by John Fielder, Esq. of Blackburn, in Lancashire, who has much improved the estate. The grounds, which are pleasant, are well wooded.

At the distance of eight miles beyond Mollington, we pass through GREAT NESTON, a populous market town, situate on the western side of the peninsula, and commanding some pleasant views of the

river Dee, and the opposite coasts of Wales.

About three miles south from Neston is the village of Burton; two miles beyond which is Shotwick, a small village, situated on the river Dee, where was formerly a royal palace, now in ruins. On this estate lived, about the year 1600, Mary Davis, who, at the age of 28, had a wen-like excrescence appear above the ear on the right side of her head, and after 32 years continuance grew into two horns, which re-

mained for five years, and were then shed. These were succeeded by two new ones, which about four years from their first appearance, were also cast, and their places occupied by two others. Several portaits were made of her when upwards of 70 years of age, one of which is now in the British and another in the Ashmolean museums: in the latter collection one of her horns is preserved. In the year 1679, when more than 80 years of age, she was exhibited in Loudon.

Returning from this digression, at the distance of one mile and a quarter from Great Neston, we arrive at Park-Gate, which has of late years become a convenient and fashionable bathing-place. It is likewise celebrated as the station for some of the packets for Ireland, which generally sail for that country four times a week. The houses of Park-Gate are chiefly disposed in one long range on the banks of the Dee, and are mostly neat modern buildings of brick. The inhabitants, who are pretty numerous, derive their principal support from the expenditure of the many visitants that reside here during the bathing season.

Journey from Stockport to Church Lawton; through
Macclesfield and Congleton.

Stockport was one of the eight baronies of the county palatine of Chester, but it is not certain when this honour was conferred; and the opinions of antiquaries are various on the subject. The late Rev. John Watson has observed upon this question, in his memoirs of the Earls of Warren and Surrey, that if the general reason can be discovered why the Earls of Chester created barons at all, or rather if it can be found out why Stockport in particular was made a barony, then possibly it may be known whether it ought to be recorded among the ancient baronies or not. In pursuing this enquiry the ingenious writer has continued, in nearly the following words.

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words, which, as they illustrate the antiquity of this place, we shall extract without farther preface.

"After William the Conqueror thought himself

"After William the Conqueror thought himself firmly established on his throne, he bestowed many provinces and counties of this realm on the barons who assisted him. These strengthened the counties respectively allotted to them, in the mode that seemed best adapted to secure their possessions from the incursions of their neighbours. The counties palatine (as they have since been called) were judged to be in greater danger than the others, and greater attention was therefore paid to their defence. Thus, in the adjoining county palatine of Lancaster, Roger Pictavensis, the Earl, caused the whole jurisdiction to be surrounded with a chain of forts; some of which I shall mention, as their situations are immediately connected with the illustration

of my subject.

"One of these forts was at Widnes, where a baron was stationed to protect that part of Lancashire from the incursions of the Cheshire people; and as their jealousy was mutual, opposite to this on the Cheshire side, was Haulton Castle; and Nigel, or rather William, son of Nigel, was fixed there with some title, and stationed in such a manner, as to guard the country from any surprise, either from Warrington, another Lancashire barony, or Runcorn Ferry. The next barony on the Lancashire side, above Warrington, was Newton, erected as well to strengthen the former, as to oppose any passage out of Cheshire, over the river Mersey. at Hallingreen Ferry; and lest from this station, and over this ferry, damage should be done to the inhabitants of Cheshire, the Earl of Chester made Ham de Masci another of his barons, and placed him opposite to the above at Dunham. Another barony of the Lancashire palatinate was Manchester, erected as a guard, on one side, against any incurTOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

sion from Stretford, and on the other, against the military station which appears to have been in very early times at Stockport. Now as all the above Lancashire barons were made in the reign of the Conqueror, by Roger Pictavensis, it seems to follow, that the barony of Stockport is as old as the rest within the county of Chester; for why should every other Lancashire barony be guarded against, which lay opposite to Chester, and not that at Manchester? If such an opening into the county was permitted to remain unguarded, the other establish-

wents must have been useless.

"When the castle at Stockport was first erected, is uncertain; but the site on which it stood has the name of Castle-yard to this day. That there are no records to determine its origin is a proof of its antiquity. If the hints given by Mr. Whitaker are well founded, it is antique indeed. "The town of Stockport," says this gentleman, "appears evidently the one common centre to three or four very variously directed roads of the Romans, The high street advances to it from Manchester; and the Pepper-street hastens to it from Handford; and in the parish of Asheton, and near the foot of Staley bridge, is a third road, commonly denominated Staley-street, for a mile together, the main line of which lies pointing clearly from Castle-shaw to Stockport. These are sure signatures of a Roman station; this must have been fixed upon the site of the castle, and was the area of the castle-hill at Stockport. This is exactly such a site as the Romans must have instantly selected for such a station; that is a small area, detached from the level ground of the market-place, and connected with it only by an isthmus. The area must have been the actual site of the castle in the earliest period of the Saxon residence among us; as the castle must have originally communicated its name to the town, and as

hoth were denominated Stockport, because the former was a port or castle in a wood. The area is about half a statute acre in extent; the site is still incomparably strong in itself, and the position is happily fitted for the ford. The station must have had a steep of 100 or 120 yards, upon three sides of it; and must have been guarded by a foss, across the isthmus. The Roman road from East Cheshire must have been effectually commanded by it; being obliged, by the circling current of the Mersey, to approach very near to the castle; and being evinced, by the remaining steepness of the neighbouring banks, to have actually ascended the brow in a hollow, immediately below the eastern side of it."

" More might be urged, in proof of there being a castrium in Stockport in the time of the Romans, if the point was not already sufficiently established; and that a fortress was maintained here in the Saxon times the very name of the place demonstrates; and, besides its signification, as given by Mr. Whitaker, Stoc, or Stoke-port, may likewise signify a wooden castle: Stoke castle in Norfolk, being interpreted, in Spelman's Icenia, by Capella Lignea; or Stoke may also mean a place or settlement in general, as Stoke-Curey, where the Curries lived; Woodstock, the Woody-place: so also Stoke-port, the place of the castle. But which ever of these derivations is correct, it plainly has a reference to the Saxon times, and is confirmed by the very current tradition that the Danes were repulsed here, and great numbers of them slain. This Nichols has thus expressed in his book, "De litteris inventis. 22

<sup>&</sup>quot;Fama refert, Danos ubi nunc Stopporta locatur, Affectos olim clade fuisse gravi: Inde urbi nomen, prædonum incursibus ohex, Quod datus, bic Anglis sit quoque parta salus."

"In ages past, the place where Stopport stands Mark'd the repulse of hostile Danish bands; And thence, according to the voice of Fame, The Angles safety gain'd, the town its name."

"This etymology is wrong, because the name was not very anciently written Stopport; but the tradition is probably right; for the field below the castle, called the park, is fuller of human bones, to a larger extent than would be nessessary for the burial ground of the garrison. Stopport was probably a corruption from Stokeport, as some centuries ago it was almost uniformly written. In the year 1173, the castle was possessed by Geoffry de Constantine; but whether he held it in his own right, or of the baron of Stockport, or even against him, by

order of the Earl of Chester, is unknown

"In a manuscript written by the late Dr. Williamson, the barony of Stockport is supposed to have belonged originally to Ranulph the Dapifer, whose name is conjectured to have been Spencer (anciently Le Despencer), and whose family growing into great wealth and favour with the kings of England, sold it to Robert de Stockport, about the reign of Henry the Third, before whose time there is little or no mention of this family. Now, if our author's suppositions are right, this barony is as ancient as the rest, for Ranulph was Dapifer, in the time of Hugh Lupus; and if it was true that the barony was purchased of him, by Robert de Stockport, it must have been very near this period; though the particular time of this family's obtaining the honour, is not to be determined." Sir Robert de Stockport, Knt, bestowed a charter upon this town, constituting it a free borough; this charter was certainly not granted till the reign of Henry the Third; a deed, printed in the Monasticon, renders it, however, evident that Robert de Stockport was in power in the latter end of the reign of Richard the First,

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The spot on which the town of Stockport stands is very irregular ground; the parish church, and market place, being on the summit of a hill, affording a level of considerable extent. Part of the northern side of this hill is perpendicular for a height equal to that of the houses which encircle its base, and conceal the hill from the view of the passengers. Some of these houses have apartments hollowed out of the rock of soft free-stone which forms the substratum of the hill, and the appearance of the whole is remarkably singular. The market-place is also encircled by an upper row of houses, ranging completely round it. From this central part of the town, the streets stretch away in various directions,

and to a considerable extent.

Stockport contains two churches; St. Mary's, and St. Peter's: St. Mary's is a spacious structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and side aisles: this is the most ancient, but neither the date of the building nor the founders are known. From the style of some part of the architecture it appears to have been erected about the fourteenth century. It was built with a soft red freestone, which has become so worn, that it has been found necessary to carry up an additional row of stone, to support the steeple, which was rebuilt between the years 1612 and 1616. The whole length of the church is 160 feet. On the north side of this church there is a small chapel, or oratory, belonging to the Leghs of Lyme; and another on the opposite side, which belongs jointly to the Ardens of Stockport, (who formerly resided at Hardon Hall) and the Davenports of Bramhall. In a small building, called Marple chapel, adjoining the south side of the chancel, is an ancient tomb, placed near Richard de Vernon, rector of Stockport in the reign of King Edward the Second. It had the following inscription remaining in 1779:

JEI GIST RICHARD HERRDRAI PERSONAE CEST EGLISE. TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

St. Mary's Church has under it four chapels of ease, and the value of the living, in consequence of the great increase of the town in buildings and inhabitants, is generally reputed to be worth at least 1500l. per annum.

St. Peter's church was erected in the year 1768, at the charge of William Wright, Esq. The annual value of the endowment, including the rent of the pews, is 3001, per annum. Both churches are fur-

nished with organs.

There are six Almshouses on the east side of the church-yard, erected about the year 1685, by an ancestor of the late Sir George Wanent, for six poor men, inhabitants of Stockport, who receive annually twenty shillings, and three horseloads of coal each person. Humphry Warren, who died about the middle of the last century, increased the yearly allowance by an additional five shillings to each man.

In the year 1487, a free-school was founded in this town, in pursuance of the will of Edmund Shaw, citizen and alderman of London, who endowed it with 10l. per annum, for a master's salary, which has been since increased to 35l. The following clause of the will in which this institution originates

is singular:

"And I will that the other honest priest, be a discret man, and cunning in grammer, and be of cunning to teach grammer; and will that he sing mass, and say his other divine service in the parish church of Stockport, in the county of Chester, at such an altar there as shall be thought convenient for him, and to pray specially for my soule. That the same cunning priest teach grammer continually in the same town of Stockport, as long as he shall continue in the same service. And that he freely, without any vages or salary taking of any person, except only my salary hereafter specified, shall teach all manner of persons, children, and others,

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that will come to him to learn, as well of the said town of Stockport as of other towns thereabout, the scyance of grammer, as free as lyeth in him to do, after their capabilities that God will give them, &c."

The removal of articles of traffic has been much facilitated by a new navigable canal from this town to Manchester, which, uniting with the Duke of Bridgewater's Canal at the latter place, communicates with the Mersey, Dee, Ouse, Derwent, Trent, Severn, Humber, Avon, Thames, and many other rivers.

Dr. Aikin, has thus delineated the progress of the trade of this town. " In Stockport were erected some of the first mills for winding and throwing silk, on a plan procured from Italy. The persons concerned in the silk factories were reckoned the principal people in the place; but, on the decline of this trade, the machinery was applied to cotton spinning, and the different branches of the cotton manufacture are now the chief staple of the town. The people of Stockport first engaged in the spinning of reeled weft, then in weaving checks, and lastly fustians; and they were so ingenious as to attempt muslins, which were introduced at the time of the invention of the machines called the mills, whereby the thread was drawn fine, and spun softer than that of the west. The manufactories have, with this advantage, produced a species of flowered muslin, with borders for aprons and handkerchiefs, by casting a coarse shoot for the figures, and neatly trimming of the float, before bleaching, with scissars, so that the figure was a good imitation of needle-work. The cotton trade of Stockport is now so considerable that besides a large number of cotton-spinning shops, here are twenty three spacious cotton factories, some of them worked by steam-engines. The making of hats is likewise a considerable branch of employment. Weaving fustians has extended from hence

hence over Cheadle, Galey, and Northendon, where a few checks or furniture had been woven before."

The privilege of holding a market at Stockport was granted, in the year 1260, by Edward, Earl of Chester, son of Henry the Third. Great quantities of corn, oatmeal, and cheese, are sold at it; for the latter article, it is considered the best market in the county.

In Stockport and its vicinity are several bridges: the most ancient, called the Lancashire bridge, crosses the Mersey on the Manchester road, and stands very high above the water, having each end built upon a rock. The Mersey, in the upper parts of its course, is particularly subject to sudden and violent swells, by one of which, on the 28th of August, 1798, the noble structure called the New Bridge, was carried away. This bridge consisted of a single arch, 210 feet in width, and about 32 feet in height. Between Stockport and the foundation of the new bridge, a very extensive cotton factory has been erected, the water for which is conveyed from the Mersey, by means of a substerraneous

In this town is a monument erected, at the expence of the Stockport volunteer corps, to perpetuate the remembrance of a remarkable accident, which befel one of the privates of this corps, named Enoch Hill, who was killed on the exercise-ground, by the bursting of his rear-rank man's musket, a splinter of which penetrated his heart. The following lines are inscribed on this monument:

tunnel.

If, crowned with glory, on the hostile plain Sinks the brave hero, for his country slain,

<sup>&</sup>quot;Beneath are interred the remains of Enoch Hill, a private in the Stockport Volunteers; who, on the 21st February, 1799, and in the 36th year of his age, was killed in the ranks, by the bursting of a musket,

On this plain grave let honouring tears be shed,
For know, its tenant for his country bled;
Yet not in lands remote, nor with the foe
Contending, felt he Death's resistless blow;
But, from the hope of victory far apart,
At home a shatter'd musket piere'd his heart,"

The police of this town is conducted by two resident magistrates; two constables; four church-wardens, who, by virtue of certain privileges granted by the Barons of Stockport, are always the owners of Lyme Hall, Harden Hall, Bramhall Hall, and Portwood Hall estates; and three overseers of the

poor.

Stockport is situated 176 miles from London; its number of inhalitants, including those of the village of Heaton-Norris, in Lancashire, and Portwood, within Brinnington, in Cheshire, which in common acceptation are always considered as parts of the town, being only separated from it by the river Mersey, is 19,488; a total considerably greater than returned from any other part of the county. The population of Stockport only is stated in the late returns at 14,830, viz. 6,983 males, and 7,847 females, of whom 14,580 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture, and 111 in agriculture. The number of houses was calculated at 2,698, which were occupied by 2,965 families.

On leaving Stockport our road lies in a southerly direction, and at the distance of four miles and a half we passthrough the village of Poynton, to the left of which is the elegant seat of the Warren family. The mansion is built in the Ionic order of architecture; and the pleasure grounds are beautiful, and are decorated with a handsome sheet of water. The park, which is very extensive, having been augmented within a few years, is judiciously disposed, and in one part commands a delightful prospect, including Stockport, Manchester, and the more remote divi-

sions

sions of Lancashire. It contains various plantations, and considerable quantities of timber; but its subterranean riches, consisting of thick veins of coal, are infinitely more valuable, being probably exhaustless. The occasion of their discovery is thus reported by a modern writer. An old tenant of one of the farms, who was obliged to procure his water from some distance, frequently petitioned the late Sir George Warren to have a well sunk; but, seeing no probability of the attainment of his suit, though he had been repeatedly assured it should be complied with, he gave notice that he would quit the premises, unless the well was immediately executed. Being unwilling to lose a respectable tenant, Sir George resolved to conform to his wishes, and the work was began. The spring lay at a considerable depth; and before they came to the water, the workmen were surprised by the appearance of one of the finest veins of coal in that country; this discovery has greatly enhanced the value of the estate, a colliery having been immediately established, and ever since worked with considerable success.

About three miles eastward from Poynton is Lyme Hall, the seat of the principal family of the Leghs; it is built in an elevated situation, and the park is very extensive, but the surrounding country is bleak, moorish, and unfruitful. The plan of the building is quadrangular, but composed of very incongruous parts; the north and east angles being of the age of Elizabeth, or James the First; the south and west sides are more modern, and erected from the designs of Leoni, in the regular Ionic order. Three sides of the inclosed court are surrounded with a piazza, which gives an air of grandeur to the whole edifice. The park is well stocked with deer, and the venison is of a very superior flavour. This manor was given, by Edward the Black Prince, to Perkin a Legh, an ancestor of the present ianily

for his bravery in recovering a standard at the battle

of Cressey.

Returning to our road, at the distance of three miles from the village of Poynton, we pass, on our right, Adlington Hall and Park, the residence of Mrs. Rowlls Leigh; three miles and a half beyond which, after passing through the viltage of Titherington, we arrive at

MACCLESFIELD, a considerable town, situated on a rising ground, near the river Jordan or Bollin, in the hundred to which it gives name. A branch of the river runs through the lower part of the town, and is generally called the Waters. The inhabitants are also supplied with water from the fountain upon the common to the east of the town, for which every housekeeper pays a small yearly sum to the mayor.

Macclesfield was first incorporated by charter, granted in the year 1261, by Prince Edward, sen of Henry the Third, then Earl of Chester. By this charter, it obtained the privileges of a merchant's guild, free from toll throughout the county, and the burgesses were obliged to grind and bake at the King's mill and oven, as was usual, and to pay one shilling for each burgage. This charter was confirmed by various succeeding monarchs, and the corporation invested with additional privileges.

The corporation at present consists of twenty-four aldermen, four of whom are in the commission of the peace, and one of them is mayor and justice of the quorum, who has for his assistants a town-clerk, who is always coroner for the borough, two serjeants-at-mace, four javelin bearers, and a constable or town-crier. The mayor is always lord of the manor, the revenues of which amount to 2001, per annum, arising from the tolls and water-money. He also possesses the right of appointing the minister of the parochial church. In the town-chest is preserved a copy or counterpart of a petition sent

to King Henry the Eighth, soon after the battle of Floddon Field, setting forth that having lost so many of the principal inhabitants of the town in that battle, they were unable to fill up the number of aldermen, as required by the charter, on which account they petitioned the king, that their charter might not be broken or lost, as their inhabitants had

lost their lives in his majesty's service. Macclesfield is in the parish of Prestbury; its two churches are therefore to be considered only as chapels of ease to that parish. The old church, dedicated to St. Michael, is a large Gothic structure, founded by Edward the First and Eleanor his queen, in the year 1279. Since that time it has undergone various alterations, and in 1740 was nearly rebuilt. It was at the same time considerably enlarged. Adjoining to this church, which formerly belonged to the Earl Rivers, but through intermarriage it now belongs to the family of Earl Cholmondeley, and is still used as the family vault. The heart of Thomas Savage, who was archbishop of York, was interred here in the year 1508, with a Greek inscription over it. On the wall of this chapel is a brass plate, representing a real pardon, granted by the Pope of Rome, to a woman, and her seven children; it is inscribed:

"The pardon for saying V paternosters, and V aves, and a crede, is XXVI thousand years, and XXVI days of pardon."

Here is also an elegant effigy of Earl Rivers, leaning upon his pillow, supporting his head with his right hand, full dressed, and the curtains undrawn, nearly cut in marble, and many others of the same family, in the dresses and ornaments of the times in which they were executed. There is also a small chapel, belonging to the family of Legh, the lords of Lyme, which has a brass-plate on the wall, thus inscribed:

"Here lyeth the body of PERKIN A LEGH, That for King Richard the death did dye, Betray'd for Righteousness: And the bones of Sir Peers his sonne, That for King Henry the Vth did wonne At Paris.

This Perkin served King Edward the Third, and the Black Prince, his son, in all their wars in France, and was at the battle of Cressie, and had Lyme given him for that service: and after their deaths, served King Richard the Second, and left him not in his troubles, but was taken with him, and beheaded at Chester by King Henry the Fourth. And the said Sir Peers his son, served King Henry the Fifth, and was slain at the battle of Agincourt. In their memory Sir Peter Legh, of Lyme, Knt. descended from them, finding the said old verses, written upon a stone in this chapel, did re-edify this place, A. D. 1626."

The tower of this church is 24 yards high, and

contains eight bells.

The new church, called Christchurch, was built in the year 1775, by the late Charles Roe, Esq. whose bust, finely executed in white and black marble, by Bacon, is placed above the altar, with an emblematical figure of Genius, weeping over him, with a cog-wheel in her hand; there is also an inscription to his memory. It is a very regular and elegant pile of building, 33 yards long, 22 wide, and ten and a half high, besides the tower and chancel; the tower is 42 yards high, six yards square within, and has ten bells. The church has a handsome organ, and a mahogany pulpit. In the church-yard which is open and spacious, over the family vault of Rowe, is a handsome monument, in the form of a pyramid. This church was begun the 22d March, 1775, and opened the 19th of October, in the same year.

The Free Grammar school is an elegant and spacious building, with a handsome dwelling-house for the head-master, and has an open yard and an adjoining field for the boys to exercise themselves in. This school was endowed by King Edward the Sixth, with houses and lands to the amount of 25l. per annum; but so great and rapid has been the improvement of the town, that the same houses and land now produce nearly 500l. per annum; and on the falling in of some of the leases granted on certain lives will be increased to nearly 800l. The head master, besides his dwelling-house, has a salary of 100l. per annum, and the second master 60l. A writing-school for girls was established by the go-vernors of this institution a few years since, for the accommodation of Macclesfield and its neighbourhood.

In Back-street there are three Almshouses, erected and endowed in the year 1703, by Mrs. Elizabeth Stanley, widow relict of Mr. James Stanley, of the family of Alderley, daughter and heiress of John Byram, alderman of this borough, for the maintenance of three poor widows, who have their settlement in this town, with one penny a day to each for ever.

There are two weekly markets held respectively on Monday and Saturday, and there are four fairs.

on the days mentioned in our list.

The regular trade of the town is that of wrought buttons, in silk, mohair, and twist; it is nearly 200 years since this article was first used. They were at one time curiously wrought with the needle, and used in the decoration of full-trimmed suits. Macclesfield was always considered as the centre of this trade, and for many years mills have been erected, both at this place and at Stockport, for winding silk, and making twist and trimming suitable to the buttons.

The following curious particulars relative to this trade.

trade, and to the manners of some of the inhabitants of this neighbourhood, are recorded in Dr. Aikin's description of the country round Manchester.

"In the wild country between Broxton, Leek, and Macclesfield, called the Flash, from a chapel of that name, lived a set of pedestrian chapmen, who hawked about these buttons, together with ribbons and ferretting, made at Leek; and handkerchiefs, with small wares, from Manchester. These pedlars were known on the roads they travelled by the appellation of Flashmen, and frequented farm-houses and fairs, using a sort of slang or cant dialect. At first they paid ready money for their goods till they acquired credit, which they were sure to extend till there was no more to be had, when they dropped their connections without paying, and formed new ones. They long went on thus, inclosing the common where they dwelt, for a trifling payment, and building cottages, till they began to have farms, which they improved from the gains of their credit, without troubling themselves about payment, since no bailiff for a long time attempted to send a writ there. At length a resolute officer, a native of the district, ventured to arrest several of them; whence, their credit being destroyed, they changed the wandering life of pedlars for the settled care of their . farms; but as these were held by no leases, they were left at the mercy of the lords of the soil, the Harpur family, who made them pay for their imposition on others. Another set of pedestrians were called the Broken Cross Gang, from a place of that name between Macclesfield and Congleton. These associated with the Flashmen at fairs, playing with thimbles and buttons, like jugglers with cups and balls, and enticing people to lose their money by gambling; they at length took to the kindred trades of robbing and picking pockets, till at last the gang was broken up by the hands of justice. The character of Autolycus, in Shakespear's Winter's Tale, seems

to have been a correct model of this worthy brother-

hood.

Besides many cotton manufactories, Macclesfield has a considerable manufactory for making fustians, linen cloth, &c. thirty mills for the throwing of silk for weavers, and making sewing silk; and also a very extensive work for smelting and working cop-

per, and making brass.

The increase of the population of this town has been astonishingly rapid, the number of inhabitants having been more than doubled within the last 30 years; the buildings have also been proportionably aug-mented, and the length of the town is now nearly one mile and a half. This enlargement has arisen from the numerous manufactories which have been established here, originating in a certain degree from the quantities of coal and other minerals that may be

readily procured in its neighbourhood.

On Macclesfield common are about 40 brick kilns, and the mountains, which are seen on the left hand, produce all kinds of stone for the supply of the town, such as slate, flag, and grave stones; some of which have been found 21 feet long. At the bottom of these hills, upon a flat nearer, are four different seams of coal, one below another, which are now working to supply the town and the brick-kilns. A large quantity is also consumed at the copper-works. On the said common there is also a large building, with an open counter-yard in the middle, of about 30 yards square, called the smelting-house, where they first melt down the copper ore, and make large quantities of shot or pellets; they also make large white bricks, of which they build their ovens, and deep large pots in the form of garden-pots, but much larger, to melt the copper ore in. Between this and the brass houses stands a large windmill for grinding the ore; next is the Balamy houses, a large range of buildings, one story high, where they wash and filter the ore, several times over, in running

water; next are the brass-houses, being a number of lofty buildings where they make the copper into sheets, for ships, pan bottoms, and brass wire: they also make large quantities of brass nails. Before these houses are three large reservoirs of water for the supply of the works, and the range of dwelling-houses for the workmen. At some distance from the copper-works is a large brewery, which is supplied with water from the top of a hill much higher than the roof of the buildings, in the front of which runs the river Jordan, or Bollin, which takes its rise about a mile and three quarters from this place.

The hundred of Macclesfield is the most extensive of any in Cheshire, comprising the whole of its morth-eastern side, and partaking of the wild and hilly character of the neighbouring parts of Derbyshire and Yorkshire. A considerable portion of Macclesfield hundred was anciently a forest, and an extensive district still retains the name of Macclesfield forest, though at present nothing more than a

naked and dreary tract.

On leaving the town of Macclesfield, we proceed in a southerly direction, for five miles, when we take a westerly course, and at the distance of the same number of miles pass through Congleton, a small corporate town, situated on the upper part of the river Dane, in the hundred of Northwich, near the borders of Staffordshire. The corporation consists of a mayor and six aldermen, in whom the munici-

pal government of the town is vested.

There are two churches in Congleton; one in the town, and one at the bridge-end across the river, both which are subject to the mother church of Astbury, a village two miles distant. The silk and cotton manufactories at this place afford employment to a great number of the inhabitants. Congleton was formerly famous for making of tagged leather laces, called Congleton points. According to the returns made to parliament, under the population act, in 1801,

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

1801, Congleton then contained 855 houses, and 3,861 inhabitants; viz. 1,713 males, and 2,148 females, of whom 2,210 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture, and 141 in agriculture.

Abont one mile and a half beyond Congleton, we pass through the village of ASIBURY, which is extensive, and contains several gentlemen's seats. The parish church is a handsome structure, with a lofty spire steeple. In the church-yard are two aneient stone nonuments, ornamented with the insignia of knighthood; but the families whose memories they were intended to record are now unknown.

At the distance of about four miles from the lastmentioned place, we arrive at Church-Lawron, a village, containing 79 houses, and 445 inhabitants;

and situated 156 miles from London.

Journey from Mottram to Chester; through Stockport and Altringham,

MOTTRAM is situated near the north-eastern extremity of the county, on an eminence, one mile to the west of the Mersey, from which river the ground begins to rise, half the way being so steep as to render it difficult of access. The houses have considerably encreased of late years; they are principally disposed into one long street, well paved, both in the town, and to some distance on the roads. The houses in general are built of a thick flag-stone, and covered with a heavy slate of nearly the same quality, no other covering being deemed strong enough to resist the impetuous gusts of wind, which occasionally occur. Most of the houses are inhabited by shopkeepers of various descriptions, the town forming a kind of perpetual market to the numerous manufacturers in the neighbourhood; there being 12 large cotton machines worked by water, and many smaller ones turned by horses, within a very small part of the surrounding district.

G 2

The

The church, which stands on a hill above the town, from which there is a steep and difficult ascent by a flight of 90 stone steps, is a large and stately building of immemorial antiquity: both the body and tower are embattled and supported by buttresses; and, from their general appearance, convey the idea of the whole structure having been erected at the period when Saxon solidity first began to give place to Gothic elegance. It is built of a coarse grey stone, full of small pebbles or flints, of a most durable quality, every stone being still as perfect as when originally laid: the stone is supposed to have been obtained from a rock in the neighbourhood, called Tinsell-Norr, which is of a similar quality, and though it can be easily cut in the quarry, becomes nearly as hard as flint on being exposed to the atmosphere.

Adjoining the church-yard, is an ancient freeschool, with a small house for the master; the endowments were bestowed in the years 1610 and 1618, by Robert Garsett, alderman of Norwich, and Sir Richard Wilbraham, lord of the manor of Mottram; each of whom contributed 100l, with which sums 23 Cheshire acres of land were purchased at Haughton, near Nantwich, and the rent settled on the school. The present income (including some

other benefactions) is about 451. annually.

The inhabitants of this town are supplied with water from springs; on the very top of the hill is a fine well, and on its sides are two others; indeed most of the hills in this vicinity have springs either issuing from their sides or summits, all which are

of soft water.

The population, as appears from the parish register, has more than doubled since the middle of the last century, and is still augmenting. The present number of inhabitants is about 1,000, and of houses, according to the late return, 220.

The scenery in the neighbourhood of this town is

peculiarly grand; the rugged and steep rocks, which are occasionally relieved by bold and swelling eminences, declining into vallies, clothed with verdure, constitute some very picture sque and romantic prospects. The Car Tor, which is a perpendicular precipice upwards of 80 feet from the plain beneath, is overhung with vast rocks at the top, on which and on the sides are oak trees growing, which threaten destruction to every thing beneath. Its face consists of various strata of stone, coal, or slaty substance, and free stone at bottom, all laid as regularly as by the hand of the mason. The summit of Mottram Hill, above that of Car, Tor, is 450 feet in height.

The most distinguished natives of this town were Mr. Lee, who was formerly an eminent stock-broker, under the Royal Exchange, who by persevering industry, raised himself to considerable affluence; and Lawrence Earnshaw, who was more favoured by the endowments of the mind than the gifts of fortune, which were but very moderately dispensed to him. The cottage where this extraordinary man was born stands in the high road to Wednescough Green, and is regarded by the neighbouring inhabitants with nearly as much veneration as the admirers of Sir Isaac Newton express for the place of his nativity. He was apprenticed when a boy to a taylor, and afterwards to a clothier; but neither of these employments suiting his genius, after serving both for eleven years, he placed himself for a short time to a clock-maker at Stockport. By the force of native abilities, with the very little instruction such an education could give him; he became one of the most universal mechanics and artists ever heard of. He could have taken wool from the sheeps' backs, manufactured it into cloth, made that cloth into cloaths, and made every instrument necessary for clipping, carding, spinning, reeling, weaving, fulling, and dressing, and making it up for wear,

G 3

with his own hands. He was an engraver, painter, and gilder, he could stain glass and foil mirrors; was a blacksmith, whitesmith, coppersmith, gunsmith, bell-founder, and coffin maker; made and erected sun-dials, mended fiddles, repaired, tuned, played upon, and taught, the harpsichord and virginal; made and repaired organs, and optical instruments; read and understood Euclid, and, in short, had a taste for all sorts of mechanics, and most of the fine arts. Clock-making and repairing was a very favourite employ with him; and he carried so far his theory and practice of clock-work, as to be the inventor of a very curious astronomical and geographical machine, containing a celestial and terrestrial globe, to which different movements were given, representing the diurnal and annual motions of the earth; the position of the moon and stars; the sun's place in the ecliptic, &c. all with the greatest correctness. One of these machines, curiously ornamented, was sold to the Earl of Bute, for 150l. All the complicated calculations as well as the execution of this great work, were performed by himself. He likewise, about the year 1753, invented a machine to spin and reel cotton, at one operation. which he shewed to his neighbours, and then destroyed, through the generous but mistaken apprehension that it might deprive the poor of a livelihood. This was previous to all the late inventions of machinery, by which the cotton manufactory has been so much promoted. He also improved a simple and ingenious piece of mechanism for raising water from a coal-mine. He was acquainted with that equally self-taught genius, the celebrated Brindley, and when they occasionally met, they did not part soon. Earnshaw was possessed of an extraordinary degree of sobriety, never drinking a gill of ale for years after he was grown to manhood; his mien and countenance were far, at first view, from betokening quick parts ,but rather announced stupidity;

stupidity; but when animated by conversation, they at once brightened up. He had a good flow of words, and clearly explained his subject in the provincial phrase and dialect of his country. He had a sick wife and expensive family, so that, notwithstanding all bis trades and ingenuity, he lived and died poor. He died about the year 1764.

About three miles to the north-west of Mottram, is Duckinfield Lodge, a modern building, beautifully situate on an eminence above the river Tame, surrounded with woods, and commanding a fine prospect. The apartments are small but elegant, and contain many good paintings, executed by John Astly, Esq. the late owner, who was a painter by

profession.

The township and barony of Duckinfield, called by the Anglo-Saxons Dockenveldt, were portions of the inheritance of the family of that name, who resided here from the time of the Conquest until the whole estate became the property of Mr. Astley above-mentioned, by his marriage with Lady Duckinfield. This gentleman made considerable improvements in the neighbourhood; he repaired the roads, built two stone bridges over the Tame for the accommodation of the village, and a handsome circus of brick houses, divided into two half circles by the road. He also erected an iron foundery upon the estate, which, from the many workmen employed, greatly encreased the population; but, after expending considerable time in the establishment of it, was at length relinquished, and a cotton factory constructed in its place.

Upon an eminence above Duckenfield Lodge, there is a very ancient dissenters' chapel, built with stone, and surrounded by a burial ground planted with firs. Between this building and the lodge there is a neat Moravian chapel, adjoining to an extensive range of buildings, formerly inhabited by the Moravians, who here exercised a variety of trades

and

and manufactures. "These buildings," says Dr. Aikin, "were erected at a great expence, by the community, under the promise of a renewal of the leases when they should drop, which, in consequence of the estate going out of the Duckenfield family, became null. Many negotiations were carried on with Mr. Astley, for the purpose of accommodating the business upon equitable terms; but, after waiting some years without effect, the society determined upon a removal, and accordingly erected their present fine building at Fairfield, in Lancashire. Their former settlement at Duckenfield now looks like a a deserted village. The chapel is still their property, held by the life of one old man, and service is performed in it by a resident, maintained in the place."

Returning to our road, at the distance of three miles from Mottram, we pass through the village of HYDE CHAPEL, or, as it is now generally denominated, Gee Cross; it obtained its primary name from a chapel for dissenters, which, with a solitary house, were the only structures here within these 40 years. This village now resembles a small town, and the houses range along each side of the road for nearly

a mile.

Near Hyde Chapel, in a romantic situation, on the banks of a small river, is Hyde Hall, the seat of George Hyde Clark, Esq. a branch of the Clarendon family. The house, which is an ancient brick edifice, repaired with a plain front, is surrounded with bold swelling eminences, which gradually slope to

the water's edge.

A short distance from the last-mentioned place is Harden Hall, formerly the residence of the Arden family, but at present occupied as a farm-house. This edifice, which is surrounded with a mote, consists of a centre and two wings, built in the form of the letter H; it is situated on the brow of a steephill, and is reported to have been once occupied by

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION. the famous John of Gaunt, though the date 1558, which appears on the building, invalidates this report. This house contains a great number of paintings, many of which were brought here from Utkington Hall, near Delamere Forest; their general merit does not amount to mediocrity. The following, however, appear to be the most worthy of notice :- Democritus and Heraclitus, the Wise Men's Offering, Queen Eleanor and Fair Rosamond, the Grecian Daughter, Pluto and Cerberus, and the burning of Troy: amongst the portraits are Lord Chancellor Egerton, Sir Thomas More, Sir Kenelm Digby, Sir John and Lady Done, the Lord Keeper Coventry, copied from Johnson, by Lupo; Judge Clynch, in his robes, by Ravenscroft; Duke Hamilton, the Earl of Warwick, Oliver Cromwell, James the Second, Charles the Second, and Mrs. Lane, with the motto, "Sic, sic juvat ire sub umbra." This lady, after the battle of Worcester, by her address with which she managed the escape of Charles II. through the midland counties to the sea; may be considered as the principal means of the escape of that monarch; and appears to have made a considerable impression on his gratitude, as the follow-

"Mrs. Lane, I have hitherto deferred writing to you, in hope to be able to send you somewhat els besides a letter; and I believe it troubles me more that I cannot yet doe it, than it does you; though I doe not take you to be in a good condition longe to expect it. The truth is, my necessityes are greater than can be imagined; but I am promised they will be shortlye supplyed: if they are, you shall be sure to receave a share; for it is impossible I can ever forgett the great debte I owe you, which I hope I shall live to pay, in a degree that is worthy of me. In the mean time, I am sure all

ing letter written by him will testify, the original of which is in the possession of a gentlemen at Man-

chester.

who love me will be kind to you, else I shall never think them so to your affectionate friend

CHARLES REX."

" Paris, Nov. 23, 1652."

Returning from this digression, at the distance of nine miles from Hyde Chapel, after passing through the town of Stockport, and the village of Cheadle, we arrive at Altringham, a small, neat, market town, situated near the course of the Bridgewater Canal, about eight miles from Manchester.

According to the returns made to parliament, under the population act, in 1801, Altringham then contained 343 houses, and 1692 inhabitants.

This town formerly received much benefit from the worsted trade; and the spinning of combed wool was general throughout the district, the wool being delivered out at Manchester, to the people who attended the market, and the worsted yarn was sold to the small-ware manufacturers. This business, however, has been almost ruined by the introduction of Irish worsted. Some stuffs for home wear are still made in small quantities from the wool spun by the coltagers in this parish.

The government of the town is vested in a mayor, and it has a guild mercatory for free traffic, granted by the charter of Hamon de Massie, Lord of Dunham Massey, about the year 1290; its trade, however, is but inconsiderable. It has been observed as a singularity, that this town has neither church nor chapel; its residents being obliged to go to the neighbouring church, belonging to the village of Bowden, which is situated about one mile south from

Altringham.

At the distance of one mile west from the lastmentioned place, is Dunham Massey, the seat of the Earl of Stamford, and one of the most beautiful residences in the county. The mansion, which is spacious, and of a quadrangular form, with a court

in the centre, is composed of brick. The park in which it is situated, is very extensive, and full of fine timber, some of the oaks being of extraordinary magnitude, and on their tops is a heronry, where many herons associate, and build in society like rooks. The grounds near the house are disposed. into shrubberies, flower beds, and various other specimens of ornamental gardening. In the park several remains of antiquity have at different times been discovered.

About six miles from Altringham, we pass through LYMM, a pleasant village, containing several good houses. At this place the Duke of Bridgewater's Canal is carried to a great height, over a stream forming a mill dam, and turning a mill for slitting of iron, and flattening it into hoops for the cooper's use. At Lymm is an ancient cross, ornamented with niches and tracery.

At the distance of two miles and a half beyond Lymm, after crossing the Duke of Bridgewater's Canal, we pass through Thelwall, anciently a considerable town, founded by Edward the Elder, in the year 920, but now an obscure and small village.

Pursuing our road, about seven miles from the last-mentioned place, we pass through the village of Daresbury, about two miles to the west of which is HALTON, or Haulton, formerly a considerable town, with fairs and markets; but it cannot now be deemed

more than a large village.

The name is derived from its situation on a high hill; it was part of the barony of Nigel, to whom it was given by Hugh Lupus, his relation and commander, to be held by the service of leading the Cheshire army into Wales, whenever it should be necessary. Nigel was also made the earl's marshall, and constable of Cheshire. From the posterity of Nigel it came to the crown, and now constitutes a considerable member of the dutchy of Lancaster, having round it a large jurisdiction, called the ho-Rour

nour of Halton. In this manor was a custom that if, in driving cattle over the common, the driver suffered them to graze or take a thistle, he should pay a halfpenny per head to the lord of the fee, which was called thistletake.

The manor of Halton had considerable privileges bestowed upon it, and the town was constituted a borough and market town; the castle was a favour-

ite residence of John of Gaunt.

This castle was entirely demolished during the civil wars in the reign of Charles the First, and has ever since remained in ruins. There is however a more modern building, used as an inn, containing a court house, and called a prison, though now never used as such. The Earl of Cholmondeley is proprietor, under the crown.

The prospects from Halton Castle are highly interesting, and it is for them that the place chiefly deserves visiting. Northwards, the river Mersey winding through a fertile plain, may be distinctly traced from the neighbourhood of Warrington, where its breadth is little more than 100 yards, to its expansion into a wide channel, contracting at Runcorn Gap, and again dilating into the estuary which extends to the sea. Beyond this river the county of Lancaster appears like a vast forest, from the numerous hedge-rows of its inclosures. To the west the view comprehends a large circuit of Cheshire, bounded by the Welsh mountains, and broken at intermediate distances by scattered hamlets and cultivated grounds.

The castle was situated at the west end of the town, and was sometime called Maurice Castle, and latterly was the seat of the Savages, Earls of Rivers; it was burnt down in the year 1652, at the time John Earl Rivers lay dead in the house. In consequence of the fire they removed to Clifton, afterwards called Rock Savage, a mile and a half south-west

from Halton,

Rock Savage is now a magnificent pile of ruins, embosomed in wood, and seated on a rising ground above the river Weever. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth this mansion was the seat of Sir John Savage, by whom it was erected; but by the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Richard Savage, Earl Rivers, with James Earl of Barrymore, it was conveyed, together with the estate, into that family. It is now the property of Earl Cholmondeley, who inherited it from his uncle General Cholmondeley, who obtained it in marriage with Lady Penelope Barry, daughter of the above Earl James. After this marriage the place was neglected, and fell so rapidly into decay that a gentleman, who was born in the house, is recorded to have followed a pack of hounds through it in pursuit of game. Some portion of its stately front, consisting of a fine gateway, with lofty turrets on each side, is still standing, as well as part of one of its sides. The residue of the ruins consists only of foundation walls, broken vaults, and heaps of rubbish, overgrown with weeds. The whole surrounded with inclosures of dilapidated walls,"-Aikin's Country round Manchester.

The following beautiful lines of Dyer, descriptive of a ruined mansion, apply with peculiar force to

these remains:

"I'is now the raven's bleak abode. 'Tis now the apartment of the toad : And there the fox securely feeds, And there the pois'nous adder breeds Conceal'd in ruins, moss, and weeds, While ever and anon there falls Huge heaps of hoary moulder'd walls " Grongar Hill.

WESTON is a beautiful village, in a very retired situation, a short distance from Rock Savage, and nearly opposite the junction of the Weever and the Mersey. Some of the most luxuriant scenery in the county

county is to be found in the vicinity of Weston, though its secluded situation, at a distance from the regular post roads, has prevented its beauties from being so well known to the public. There is a most magnificent water-prospect, from the brow of the hill, overhanging the point of land where the rivers form their junction; from hence is seen, at full tide, the broadest part of the estuary of the Mersey, extending many miles before the eye, till it is completely land-locked by a turn in the channel; having the appearance of an immense lake, bordered on the Cheshire and Lancashire side by every variety of ground, arable, meadow, pasture, and woodland.

About two miles to the north of Weston, is Runcorn, a small town, situated on the banks of the river Mersey, which is here contracted from a considerable breadth to a very narrow channel, by a point of land projecting from the Lancashire side.

The town was originally built by Ethelheda, queen of the Mercians, in the year 916, she also erected a castle just opposite the gap, as the before-mentioned narrow channel is denominated, for the defence of this extremity of her extensive domain. There are no vestiges of this castle at present to be seen; but its site is distinguished by the name of the Castle, given to a triangular piece of ground, surrounded by a mound of earth, jutting out into the river, defended on the water-side by a ledge of rocks and broken precipices, and separated from the land by a ditch of about six yards in width.

Previous to the completion of the Duke of Bridgewater's Navigation, which here communicates with the Mersey, Runcorn was but an obscure village. It has since been considerably increased, by the erection of many dwelling-houses, inns, shops, &c. for the accommodation of the great conflux of workmen, and other persons, attending the vast basons, or reservoirs of water, which supply the canal. An

immense

immense warehouse has likewise been erected upon a new plan, and various wharfs built for the general accommodation of trade.

In addition to the advantages it derives from the navigation, Runcorn has lately become a fashionable place of resort for salt-water bathing; the fine air, the pleasantness of the neighbourhood, and the exhilirating effects of the busy scene upon the river, constituting useful auxiliaries to the effects of the bath in the recovery or consolidating of health.

The parish church is situated above the Castle Rock, and was most probably founded at the same time with the town and castle. It was certainly in existence previous to the Norman conquest, since Nigel, baron of Halton, bestowed it on his brother Wilfrith, a priest, in the time of William the Conqueror. It afterwards became the property of Norton Abbey, and on the dissolution of that monastery was given to Christchurch College, Oxford.

In the year 1133, William, the son of Nigel, above-mentioned, founded an abbey of canons regular at Runcorn, which was afterwards removed by his son William, constable of Chester, to Norton.

Free-stone, in considerable quantities, is procured in the quarries in this parish, so contiguous to the canal as to be very easily conveyed to it in blocks of great magnitude, which are used in the works, about the navigation, or carried to various places in its course. At Manchester this stone is sold at eight-pence and ten-pence the square foot.

The shore from this village to Weston Point is protected by a low ridge of rock, rising almost perpendicularly from the beach. The botanist may find a pleasing variety of plants, both maritime and

inland, in the vicinity of Runcorn.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about five miles from Daresbury, after crossing the Weever river, we pass through FRODSHAM, a small town, situate on an eminence, beneath the hills,

which form the northern extremity of Delamere Forest, and but a short distance from the confluence of the Weever and the Mersey. The town principally consists of one spacious street, crossed by another at right angles. According to the returns under the population act in 1801, Frodsham then contained 189 houses, and 1250 inhabitants, the lower classes of whom are employed in the salt trade and cotton manufacture, which has been introduced here within these few years. The weekly market is on Thursday, and the fairs on the days mentioned in our list.

The parish church is situated upon a very elevated spot, considerably above the town, in a part very properly called Overton. The church register records two remarkable instances of longevity 2 on March 13, 1592, was buried Thomas Hough, aged 141, and on the next day Randle Wale, aged

103.

Near the church is the Free School, with a good house for the master. On Beacon Hill, behind the school, is cut a pleasant walk, commanding a fine view of the estuary of the Dee, and the more distant parts of Lancashire. At the foot of the hill are

shooting butts for the practice of archery.

There was formerly a castle at Frodsham, which, together with the town, was granted by Edward the First to David, who was at that time at variance with his brother Llewellyn, the last sovereign prince of Wales. This David afterwards broke his alliance with Edward, and having surprised the castle of Harwarden, put the garrison to the sword, and made Roger de Clifford, justiciary of Chester, prisoner. For this conduct he was punished most severely, being the first person who was executed as a traitor, according to the mode now in use. He was condemned to be drawn by a horse to the place of execution, and hanged for the murder of the knights he had massacred in Hawarden Castle; his howels.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION. bowels were then to be taken out and burnt, and

his body quartered and exposed in different parts of

the kingdom.

At the west end of the town is an excellent cold bath, which discharges 1700 gallons of water in a minute. The town is well supplied with many excellent springs of good water; one in particular called Pearl of Wigan, which distils from the face of a rock in drops from every vein, resembling the purest gems.

About two miles to the east of Frodsham is Peel Hall, formerly the seat of Colonel Roger Whiteley, and thought to be one of the most magnificent of all the old mansions in Cheshire. It is now occupied as a farm-house, and is the property of the Earl of Plymouth. Colonel Whiteley was mayor of Chester for four succeeding years, about the conclusion of the seventeenth century, and during his residence here, was honoured with a visit from King James the Second.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about nine miles from Frodsham, after crossing the Weever river, and passing through the villages of Netherton and Helsby, we arrive at Chester.

## Journey from Northwich to Sandbach; through Middlewich.

Northwich is a large ancient market town, situate near the conflux of the river Dane with the Weever. The streets are irregular, and badly paved, and several of the houses are of great anti-quity. The church, which is spacious, is remarkable for the singularity of its choir, which is semicircular, and the roof of the nave is ornamented with numerous figures of wicker baskets of a similar shape to those used in salt making.

Here is a well-endowed free grammar school, founded by Mr. John Dayns, of London. Here is a large cotton manufactory, where several hundred hands

hands are employed: but its principal trade is in salt, which is manufactured on an extensive scale at several places in this county; but the principal part of the trade is now concentrated in the neighbourhood of this town. Here the salt is made from brine springs, as also from the natural rock. The vast importance of this invaluable antiseptic in the preservation of animal food, &c. must render the following particulars interesting; they are chiefly taken from Aikin's Country round Manchester:—

"The rock-salt is found from 28 to 48 yards beneath the surface of the earth. The first stratum, or mine, is from 15 to 21 yards in thickness, in appearance extremely resembling brown sugar-candy, perfectly solid, and so hard as to be broke with great difficulty, by iron picks and wedges. Latterly the workmen have been accustomed to blast it with gunpowder, by which expedient they loosen and remove many tons together. Beneath this stratum is a bed of hard stone, consisting of large veins of flag, intermixed with some rock-salt, the whole from 25 to 35 yards in thickness. Under this bed is a second stratum or mine of salt, from five to six yards thick; many parts of it perfectly white, and clear as chrystal; others browner, but all purer than the upper stratum, yet reckoned not quite so strong. Above the whole mass of salt lies a bed of whitish clay, which has been used in the Liverpool earthenware; and in the same situation is found a gypsum.

"Rock-salt pits are sunk at great expense, and are very uncertain in their duration, being frequently destroyed by the brine springs bursting into them, and dissolving the pillars that support the roof, through which the whole work falls in, leaving vast chasms in the surface of the earth. In forming a pit a shaft or eye is sunk, similar to that of a coal-pit, but more extensive. When the workmen have penetrated to the salt-rock, and made a proper cavity, they leave a sufficient substance of the rock (gene-

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

rally about seven yards in thickness) to form a solid roof; and, as they proceed, they hew pillars out of the rock to sustain the roof, and then employ gunpowder to separate what they mean to raise. This is conveyed to the surface in huge craggy lumps, drawn up in capacious baskets made for the purpose.

"The largest rock-salt pit now worked is in the township of Witton. This has been excavated in a circular form, 108 yards in diameter; its roof is supported by 25 pillars, each three yards wide at the front, four at the back, and its sides extending six yards Each pillar contains 294 solid yards of rocksalt, and the whole area of the pit, which is 14 yards hollow, includes 9,160 superficial yards, being little less than two acres of land." From 50,000 to 60,000 tons of rock-salt are annually delivered from the pits in the neighbourhood of Northwich, scarcely more than one-fourth of which is refined in England, the remainder being exported to various parts of the continent. The salt is conveyed down the Mersey in vessels, from 50 to 80 tons burthen, to Liverpool, from whence it is re-shipped for foreign countries. or kept for refining.

Besides the great quantity of salt obtained from the rock, an immense weight is procured from the brine pits, not less than 45,000 tons being manufactured at this town annually. The depth of the springs is usually from 20 to 40 yards; these springs are situated on a hill at some distance. The briny stream is raised by a steam-engine, and conveyed through very long troughs to the brine pits. The method of extracting the salt is accomplished by heating the liquor in iron pans of 20 or 30 feet square, and about 15 inches deep: when it boils a light scum rises to the top, which is taken off, and the liquor reduced to a lower degree of heat; the steam which rises is made to evaporate as quickly as possible, and the salt, collecting into chrystals, forms a crust

on the surface, and afterwards sinks to the bottom of the pans, whence it is removed once or twice

every 24 hours.

"The revenue arising from salt is thought of so much consequence, that a particular board is appointed for its collection and management, having a department quite independent of the excise and customs. Not a peck of salt can go from the works without a permit, under the risk of forfeiture and high penalties; and officers are stationed on the roads to demand a sight of permits, and re-weigh on suspicion of fraud."

Returning from this digression, on leaving Northwich, our journey lies in a southerly direction, and, at the distance of one mile, we pass through the village of Davenham: two miles to the west of which, on the opposite side of the Weever river, is Vale Royal Abbey, the seat of Thomas Cholmondeley, Esq.-The original building was founded by Prince Edward, son of Henry the Third, as a monastery for Cistertian monks, 100 of whom he had placed in his mansion-house, at Dunhall, about the year 1266, in pursuance of a vow he had made upon narrowly escaping from shipwreck. In 1277, upon the petition of the monks, because, as the king observes, "the latter place was not, for sooth, lightsome enough for their fat worships," he began to erect a stately abbey in the more cheerful and pleasant situation of Vale Royal, an appellation given by the king himself to this district. This abbey was not completed till the year 1330, when the expence of the building was found to have amounted to the immense sum of 32,0001.

At the dissolution of religious houses the revenues of Vale Royal Abbey were estimated at 518l. 19s. 8d. per annum, and the site was then granted to Sir Thomas Holcroft, of Holcroft, in the county of Lancaster, from whose grandson, Sir Thomas Holcroft, the whole demesne was purchased by Dame Mary,

daughter

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION. daughter of Christopher Holford, of Holford, in this county, and widow of Sir Hugh Cholmondeley,

knight, who was member of parliament for Cheshire in the year 1585. Dame Mary was stiled the 'Bold Ladie of Cheshire,' by King James the First, who honoured her with a visit at Vale Royal, in the year 1617; she died on the 15th of August, 1625, and was buried with her husband in Malpas church, where a magnificent monument is erected to their memory. The present Earl Cholmondeley is descended from Hugh, their third son. The estate of Vale Royal was inherited by Thomas, the fourth son, whose great-grandson is the present owner.

During the civil wars, in the reign of Charles the First, Vale Royal was plundered by a detachment from General Lambert's army, which was then engaged in besieging Beeston Castle, garrisoned for the

king.

The parliamentary troops, after siezing every valuable article, whether of decoration or furniture, set fire to one of the wings, which appeared to have been the refectory of the abbey, from the marks of the bare walls, which were standing some few years back. There is a curious tradition that, during the time the troops above-mentioned were in possession of Vale Royal, the family were supported wholly by the milk of a white cow, which had found means to escape from the soldiers, who were conveying her away with other cattle. Whatever truth there may be in this tradition, it is certain that the posterity of the white cow has been gratefully preserved in a breed, which is white with red ears, still kept at Vale Royal.

The hall of the present mansion was erected about 250 years ago, and is a very spacious room, being nearly 70 feet in length; the wings were rebuilt

about 10 years since.

The apartments contain a great number of family and other portraits, some of them remarkably fine pictures.

pictures. Among these are particularly to be noticed the portraits of Charles the First and James the First, by Sir Peter Lelv; the great Duke of Somerset, by Rubens; the Earl of Londonderry and his sister, Mrs. Cholmondeley; Governor Put, Sir Lionel and Lady Tollemache; Lady Salisbury, his mother, and the last Sir Hugh Cholmondeley: the latter is a full length in green armour, painted on board, and placed at the end of the gallery called Sir Hugh's. Here is also a curious painting on wood of King Charles the First, putting on his cap previous to his being beheaded; this was painted by Deniers, in 1649. Another painting represents Mr. John Thomasine, the celebrated writing-master of Tarvin.-The library contains an extensive collection of curious and valuable works. Among its choicest rarities are writings called the Prophecies of Nixon, the fa-mous Cheshire prophet; these are preserved with particular care, and no stranger is permitted to see thein.

In a pamphlet published at Chester, purporting to contain the original predictions of Nixon, it is said that he was born at a farm called Bridge House, in the parish of Over, near Newchurch, and not far from Vale Royal, in the year 1467; but, in the account of his life, written by John Oldmixon, Esq. it appears that he lived in the reign of James the First. His infancy and boyhood were only remarkable for expressing a heavy and sluggish apprehension, which berdered on stupidity, and so feeble was his intellect that even the most common employments of husbandry could not be taught him without considerable difficulty. As he grew older he became distinguished for stubbornness of disposition and sullen taciturnity. Previous to the utterance of his prophecies he generally fell into a trance, and whatever means were employed to awaken him he remained fixed and insensible till the bodily paroxysm bad abated.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

abated, of the nature or even of the presence of which he seemed to have had knowledge.

Some mystical expressions which he uttered on recovering from one of these fits, and of which the whole neighbourhood rang with the fulfilment, occasioned him to be noticed by Thomas Cholmondeley, Esq. the owner of Vale Royal. This gentleman took him into his house, and intended to have had him educated, but it was found impossible to remove his natural ignorance, and he was suffered to pursue the occupation of a plough-driver, to which his capacity seemed only equal. During his stay in this family he is said to have foretold many things that were soon afterwards actually fulfilled, and others that were not to be accomplished till after the expiration of many years. Among the latter events were the the Civil Wars, the death of Charles the First, the Restoration, and the Revolution.

His fame having at length reached the court of James the First, he was sent for by that monarch, who wished to converse with the man who possessed such extraordinary powers. Nixon was unwilling to attend, declaring that his reason for his reluctance was the certainty of being starved, should he be obliged to comply with the monarch's command; he was, however, forced to visit the palace, where the king, to prevent the possibility of his suffering the fate he so much dreaded, assigned him a place in the royal kitchen. It, notwithstanding, happened that the king, having departed suddenly for Hampton Court, at a time when Nixon, for some mischievous prank, was locked up in a closet, he was entirely forgotten for three days, at the expiration of which he was found lifeless, being literally starved to death.

Resuming our road, at the distance of about four miles from Davenham, we pass through MIDDLE-wich, a town of considerable antiquity, situated near the confluence of the rivers Dane and Croke;

its name is derived from its being the middlemost of the wiches, or salt-towns, and its origin is supposed to be at least as remote as the time of the Romans. The town is tolerably well-built, and has a very respectable and agreeable appearance. According to the returns in the population act of the year 1801, it then contained 268 houses, and 1,190 inhabitants, the lower classes of whom are chiefly employed in the manufacture of salt, and in a cotton manufactory established here some years ago.

The municipal government of the town is vested in a certain number of burgesses, and its privileges are nearly the same as those enjoyed by the other

salt-towns.

The church is a large and handsome structure, and the vicarage comprehends several townships.—
A small chapel within the church was the burial place of the ancient family of the Venables.

The market is on Tuesday, and the fairs on the

days inserted in our list.

The salt manufactured at Middlewich is from brine springs well saturated; it is not at present made in any large quantities, but it might readily be encreased to answer any demand, the salt-water springs here being said to produce more salt in proportion to the brine than any other place.

Near the town is Kinderton, which, according to Mr. Whitaker, the historian of Manchester, appears to have been the Condate of the Romans. Upon seeking for the road, from Mancunium, or Manchester, towards Condate, he discovered its elevated

and well-gravelled surface in many places.

Kinderton gave title to one of the ancient barons who were created by Earl Lupus; this was the family of Venables, now represented by Lord Vernon, of Kinderton, the only lineal descendant of the eight Cheshire barons now remaining.

At the distance of about four miles beyond Midellewich, we arrive at the small town of Sandbach,

pleasantly

pleasantly situate on an eminence, near the little river Wheelock; it was made a market-town in the seventeenth century by its lord, Sir John Radcliff, of Ordsall, in Lancashire, whose ancestors had long possessed the manor.

There are two square crosses in the market-place, ornamented with various images, and a carved re-

presentation of the Crucifixion.

Sandbach was formerly noted for its fine ale, and a considerable quantity of woollen yarn and coarse stuffs were manufactured by the inhabitants; but of late years the business of the place has very much decreased.

Brereton Hall, near Sandbach, the seat of —— Bracebridge, Esq. was formerly the seat of the family of Brereton, one of whom, Sir William Brereton, knight, erected a magnificent edifice here, about the middle of the sixteenth century. Near this estate is Bagmere, a noted pool, in which, according to the tradition of the neighbourhood, trunks of trees were observed to rise and float for several days previous to the death of an heir of the Breretons.

About four miles to the south-west of Sandbach is Crewe Hall, the seat of John Crewe, Esq; it was erected in the reign of James the First, by Sir Randle Crewe, who is said to have introduced the first model of good building into this county. The mansion is a very fine structure, and was erected from a design given by Inigo Jones; but it was repaired after the Civil Wars, during which it sustained two assaults, having been occupied both by the troops of the Parliament and those of the King. The gardens, which are judiciously laid out, are enriched with plantations.

# Journey from Tarvin to Nantwich; through Tarporley.

TARVIN is a small market-town, situated on the border of Delamere Forest; it derives its name from the

the British word Tarfyn, which signifies the boundary. Its market was granted to Sir John Savage, the lord of the manor, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; the manor previously belonged to the bishopric of Litchfield, and the rectory is still attached to that see, and is a prebend of Litchfield cathedral.

In the church there is a monument recording the memory and abilities of Mr. John Thomasine, who was master of the grammar-school here 36 years, and particularly remarkable for his extraordinary skill in the art of penmanship. "Specimens of his ingenuity are treasured up, not only in the cabinets of the curious, but in public libraries throughout the kingdom; he had the honour to transcribe for her majesty Queen-Anne, the Icon Basilike of her royal grandfather. Invaluable copies also of Pindar, Anacreon, Theocritus, Epictetus, Hippocrates' Aphorisms, and that finished piece, the Suield of Achilles, are among the productions of his celebrated pen."

There are two pens crossed delineated on his tomb.

Between Tarvin and Northwich, in the Forest of Delamere, it is said there was formerly a town called Eadesburgh, or Happy Town, built by Lady Ethelfleda, but which has long lost its name, and become a heap of ruins, now called the Chamber in the Forest. Camden mentions the ruins of another town, called Tinborow, two miles from the former.

On leaving Tarvin our road lies south-easterly, and, at the distance of five miles, we pass through TARFORLEY, a small market-town, in the hundred of Edisbury, chiefly noted as being the place where many of the principal gentlemen of the county assemble at an annual hunt, the neighbouring heaths of Delamere Forest affording very favourable ground for the diversion.

The manor and rectory of Tarporley is divided nto six shares, four of which belong to the Arden family, one to the dean and chapter of Chester, and one to John Egerton, Esq. of Oulton.

About

About two miles to the south of this town rises an immense insulated rock, called Beeston; it is composed of sand-stone, and is nearly perpendicular on one side, but on the other it gradually slopes to the general level of the country adjacent; its height, measuring from Beeston Bridge to the summit, is 366 feet. On the summit of the rock are the stately ruins of the celebrated Beeston Castle, the impregnable strength of which was once almost proverbial. It was erected, in 1220, by Randle Blundiville, Earl of Chester; it consisted of an outer and inner area. The outer came about half-way down the slope, and was defended by a great gateway and a strong wall, fortified with round towers, which ranged across the slope, from one edge of the precipice to the other; some parts of this wall, and about five or six rounders, still remain. The area enclosed is four or five acres. The castle, on one side of this area, was defended by a vast ditch cut out of the solid rock, on the other by the abrupt precipice which overhangs the vale of Cheshire. The entrance is through a noble gateway, guarded on each side by a strong round tower, with walls of prodigious thickness; within the walls are to be seen the remains of a rectangular building, which was formerly the chapel .-The draw-well was of immense depth, being sunk to the level of Beeston Brook, which flows at the foot of the rock; there was another well in the outer area. "The perpendicular side of Beeston has a tremendous appearance; it is haunted by a kind of hawk which builds in its clefts, and "wings the midway air."

The particulars reported of the history of this castle are not well authenticated; it is, however, certain that from the Earls of Chester it devolved toglite crown, and that, after undergoing many vicissitudes, it fell into ruins, and in this state it was seen by Leland, in the reign of Henry the Eighth. It was afterwards repaired, and, in the beginning of the civil war in the reign of Charles the First, was seized by the Parliament, and garrisoned by a detachment of soldiers under the command of Captain Steel. On the 12th of December, 1643, it was surprised and taken by that famous partizan of royalty, Captain Sandford. It appears that the garrison made little or no defence, for (Rushworth says) the governor was afterwards tried and executed for a coward.-The parliamentary forces afterwards attempted to retake it, and it was unsuccessfully besieged for 17 weeks, being bravely defended by Captain Valet. On the approach of Prince Rupert the enemy abandoned it, on the 18th of March, 1644. In the year 1645 it was again attacked, and on the 16th of November it surrendered on honourable conditions, after 18 weeks continual siege, in which the garrison were reduced to the necessity of eating cats, &c. The governor, Colonel Ballard, in compassion to his soldiers, assembled to beat a parley, and thereupon a treaty followed, and, having obtained very honourable terms (even beyond expectation in such extremity), viz. to march out the governor and officers with horses and arms, and their own proper goods (which loaded two trains), the common soldiers with their arms, colours flying, drums beating, matches alight, and a proportion of powder and ball, and a convoy to guard them to Flint Castle, he did, on Sunday the 16th of November, surrender the castle, the garrison being reduced to not above sixty men, who were marched away according to the conditions. Many traces of military operations, such as ditches, trenches, &c. are still discernable about the rock. The site and ruins of the castle at present belong to Sir Thomas Mostyn, of Mostyn in the county of Flint, Bart.

About two miles south from Beestin is BUNBURY, a small village with a parish church, that was formerly collegiate. It belonged to a college, founded here by Sir Hugh Calveley, who at the battle of Auray,

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION. in the year 1364, when the great Du Guesilin was taken prisoner, served under Lord Chandos, and turned the fortune of the day by his gallant conduct. He afterwards joined the Black Prince, in support of the tyrant Peter the Cruel, whom he reinstated on the throne by the great victory of Najara; and on the recal of the prince, he was left com-

mander in chief. He is said to have married the Queen of Arragon, and afterwards the heiress of Mortram, lord of Mortram. He was living in the

reign of Henry the Fourth. Upon the dissolution of monasteries, the revenues of this house were valued at only 481.2s. 8d. The foundation, at that time, consisted of a dean, five vicars, and two choristers, who were to pray for the souls of the King, Sir Hugh, their progenitors, and those

of all the faithful.

The church is dedicated to St. Boniface, and is a handsome building, embattled and the tower ornamented with pinnacles. It contains several ancient monuments, among which that of the founder, Sir Hugh, is the most distinguished. On a magnificent tomb is a recumbent figure, the effigies in white marble of this " Arthur of Cheshire, the glory of the county." He is armed according to the fashion of the times in which he lived; and is represented by the sculptor of extraordinary dimensions, the effigies being seven feet and a half in length. His head rests on a helmet, with a calf's head for a crest, in allusion to his name; from this circumstance arose the ridiculous traditionary story that he could devour a calf at a meal. The tomb is kept very neat, by a benefaction of Dame Mary Calvely, of Lee; who in the year 1705, left the interest of 1001, to the poor of Bunbury parish, if they attended divine service, and kept this monument clean.

In the chancel is the effigies of Sir George Beeston, who died in 1600. It was placed here by his 13

son, Sir Hugh Beeston, the last male heir of this an-

cient family.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about seven miles from Tarporley, we pass through the village of Acton, which was a considerable place in the time of the Saxons, and the residence of Morcar, brother of the last Earl of Mercia. The church is a new and neat building, containing some monuments of the Mainwaring and Wilbraham families. The old church was used as a temporary prison, after the battle of Namptwich. The chief employment of the inhabitants is shoe-making. Many of the houses are very old and irregular, though others are large and convenient.

About one mile and a half beyond Acton, we arrive at NAMPTWICH, or Nantwich, situated near the borders of Staffordshire and Shropshire, in a fertile vale, on the banks of the river Weever. In some ancient deeds this town is called Wicks Malbanns, that is Wick Malbane, because it was given by the first Earl of Chester, to one of his barons named William Malbans, and so became a barony, which continued in his posterity for a considerable time; but has been since divided into parcels. At present the Earl Cholmondeley is the principal owner, and takes tolls of all cattle, roots, and fruits, that are sold here at fairs, &c.

This town is the capital of the hundred of the same name, and was formerly reckoned the second town in the county; it has however been outstript by several others, which have derived some benefit from the settlement of the manufactures within them. According to the returns under the population act in 1801, Namptwich then contained 824 houses, and 3,463 inhabitants. The houses are in general well built, and disposed in several streets, which are regular and tolerably spacious.

The municipal government of the town was anciently exercised by the lord of the manor or his steTOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION. 103 ward, who resigned the jurisdiction to a bailiff, but the election of that officer being suspended, the town is now governed by constables.

The market is on Saturday, which is plentifully

supplied with all sorts of provisions.

The chief trade of Namptwich is in shoes, which are manufactured here for the dealers in London. Here is also a small manufactory of gloves.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and James the First, the tanning business was a source of much wealth to the town; but that, as well as the manufactory of bone lace and stockings is nearly lost.

The inhabitants carry on a considerable trade in cheese, of which the innest is made in the immediate neighbourhood of the town. A remarkable large one was manufactured by Mr. Thomas Heath, of Namptwich, farmer, on the 28th of May, 1792; the weight of which was thirteen score and ten pounds; it was twelve inches thick, and two feet four inches over. It was intended as a present to his Majesty.

The cotton manufacture has also made some pro-

gress in this town.

Namptwich is one of the four salt towns, commonly called the Wiches, and was formerly considered as the principal of them. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, there were 216 salt-works, It is probable that these salt-works, are as ancient as the time of the Romans in Britain, and that they received an impost or tax from them; the Saxons in their time appear to have procured salt from the brine pits here, and various laws and customs have prevailed from old times respecting the working of them. At present there are but two saltworks, of five large pans; the decrease in the salt business of this town is owing to its being less conveniently situated for commerce than the other salt towns, which besides abound almost to excess in that commodity.

The church is a handsome and spacious Gothic structure,

structure, built in form of a cross, with an octangular tower in the middle. The east and west windows are of considerable size, and filled with elegant tracery. The chancel has a carved stone roof, and neat stalls, brought from the abbey of Vale Royal, after the dissolution of that monastery, in the reign of Henry the Eighth; there is also part of a tessellated pavement. The living is a small vicarage.

Among the charitable institutions in this town, there is a free school, founded by John and Thomas Thrush, natives of Namptwich, who acquired a fortune, in the trade of woolpackers, in London. There is another school, founded chiefly by the family of Wilbraham, aided by the liberality of the Crewe family; at this school forty boys, called the Blue-caps, are cloathed and taught English.

Here are seven almshouses, endowed by John Crewe, Esq. of Crewe; in pursuance of the wills of Sir Thomas Crewe, and Sir John Crewe, knights. They are for men and women, who are allowed six pounds a year. Six other almshouses, endowed by Sir Edward Wright, for men and women, who are allowed four pounds per annum each, and one shirt, one pair of stockings, and one pair of shoes; and six almshouses, endowed by Mrs. Wilbraham, for men and women, who are allowed ten shillings each, per quarter, and a new gown every two years, value 11. 4s.

In 1780, a large and commodious workhouse was crected in that part of the township called Beam Heath, in consequence of a grant from Earl Chol-

mondeley for that purpose.

Namptwich has twice suffered severely by fire, and once by the plague. The latter commenced on the 12th of June, 1604, and continued till the 2nd of May following; during this period between four and 500 persons were swept away by the destructive malady; of the former, the first which occurred was in July.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION. July, 1438, and the second in December, 1583. when nearly the whole town was consumed. It was rebuilt by means of a collection made by John Maisterson, Sir Hugh Cholmondeley, and others, and encreased and considerably beautified by Queen Elizabeth.

During the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. this town uniformly adhered to the Parliament. In 1643 it was besieged by the royal forces, under the command of Lord Byron, and though only surrounded by mud walls, it was defended with great courage, and the assailants were repulsed with great slaughter. The besieging forces were at length totally defeated by Sir Thomas Fairfax, and the town relieved.

The widow of Milton, our great poet, resided during the latter part of her life, in this town, where she died at a very advanced age, in March, 1726. She was the daughter of Mr. Minshall, of Stoke, in

this neighbourhood.

About five miles to the south-east of Namptwich is Doddington Hall, the ancient seat of the family of that name, where are preserved the statues of Lord Audley and his four squires, Delves, Dutton, Foulhurst, and Hawkester, all Cheshire men, who distinguished themselves so eminently at the battle of Poitiers.

Combernere Abbey is situated about five miles to the south-west of Namptwich, near the banks of the deep water called Comberniere: it was founded by Hugo Malbane, in the 35th year of Henry I. 1134, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. Michael. He endowed it with lands and possessions of considerable value; and, among other things, with a fourth part of the town of Namptwich, and the tythes of the salt and the boileries there. These grants were confirmed by Ralph, Earl of Chester, the chief lord, who also added several other privileges and immunities. At the dissolution it was valued

at 2251. 9s. 7d. per annum, and the site was granted by Henry VIII. to William Cotton, Esq. whose descendants still possess the estate. The present mansion was built with the remains of the ancient abbey, and is at present the residence of Sir Robert Salisbury Cotton, Bart.

## Journey from Knutsford to Macclesfield: through Chelford.

KNUTSFORD is a small market town, situated near the river Mersey. It is said to derive its name from the circumstance of the Danish King Canute passing a ford after a victory gained by his army in the adjacent fields. Knutsford is divided as it were into two towns, by a rivulet called Birkin, which soon after runs into the Dane; these are called the upper and lower towns, with a parish church in the former, and a chapel of ease in the latter.

The manor of Knutsford became, after the Norman Conquest, part of the barony of Halton. It is at present the property of the representative of the

late Duke of Bridgewater.

The church is a handsome modern structure, fur-

nished with a fine organ.

The weekly market is on Saturday, and there are three annual fairs on the days inserted in our list. The sessions for the county are holden twice a year at this place. The annual race-meeting at Knutsford is remarkable for being honoured with a more brilliant assembly of nobility and gentry than any other in the county, not excepting even Chester.

According to the returns under the population act in 1801, Knutsford then contained 481 houses,

and 2.372 inhabitants.

The principal employment of the lower classes of the inhabitants is in the cotton factories, and in making thread. The flax used in the manufacture of the latter article is chiefly brought from Russia, Ireland, and Hamburgh, though a small portion of it is

grown

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

grown in Yorkshire. About 20 year ago it was usually spun at Knutsford, from the raw material, but it is now principally spun abroad, and brought to this place in the state of yarn, the flax spinners having engaged in the more lucrative and increasing business of cotton weaving. There is also a silkmill, built in immitation of those at Stockport, in this Shag velvets are also manufactured at Knutsford.

On the marriage of any of the inhabitants of Knutsford, the friends and acquaintance of the parties practice the very singular custom of strewing their doorways with brown sand, and on this they figure various fanciful and emblematical devices, with diamond squares, scallops, &c. in white sand, and over the whole are occasionally strewed the

flowers of the season.

The expenditure of the numerous families of gentry that reside in the immediate vicinity of Knutsford considerably contributes are its prosperity and

the support of its trade.

About one mile and a half to the north of Knutsford is Tatton Hall, the seat of W. Egerton, Esq. The mansion, which is a new building, is situated in the midst of a park, containing nearly 2,500 acres of arable and pasture land. It stands on an elevated spot of ground, from which a lawn gradually declines to the level of Tatton-mere, a fine piece of water, about half a mile from the house. The view beyond the mere, after including a variety of intermediate objects, is terminated by the distant hills, which divide Cheshire from the neighbouring counties. The designs for the house were given by Mr. Wyatt, and are conceived in a style of elegant simplicity. The gardens are extensive, and the pinery is remarkably spacious and well constructed.

A short distance to the south-west of Tatton Park, is Tabley, the ancient seat of the Leicester family. The present possessor is Sir J. F. Leycester, whose father employed Mr. Carr, the architect, to erect the present mansion, which is a large and handsome edifice, of the Doric order, composed of brick and stone. The colums which sustain the portico are of very large proportions, each consisting of only a single block. The interior of the house contains some good pictures, by ancient and modern masters, particularly the portraits of Lord and Lady Byron, by Vandyck. The stables, which are very neat and convenient, are disposed in a quadrangular form, kaying a spacious riding-house in the centre, and suitable offices.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of five miles, we pass through the village of Chelford; about two miles to the north-east of which is Alderley Park, the ancient inheritance of the Stanley family, to whom the contiguous townships of Over and Nether Alderley principally belong. The ancient manor-house was burnt down about 30 years ago. The present residence is situated at the southern extremity of the park, and was formerly denominated the Park House. The ground rises rapidly from the park to the northward, and forms the range of high hills, called Alderley Edge, the highest point of which is about 360 feet above the church, and the view from it is extremely magnificent.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about six miles from Chelford, we arrive at Macclessield, a description of which has been already given in a former part of this work.

iei pait of this work.

## Journey from Malpas to Farndon.

Maleas is a small market-town in Broxton hundred, chiefly consisting of three streets, situated at the south-western corner of the county, near the detached part of Flintshire. It is said to derive its name from the narrow, steep, and rugged way to it. The Romans called it Malo Passus, and the Normans Malpas. This was one of the eight baronies

of Hugh Lupus, who bestowed it on Robert Fitzhugh. In the reign of Henry II. it was held by William Fitz-Patrick. It now belongs to the present Earl Cholmondeley, whose second title is Viscount Malpas.

The church is situated on the highest part of the town, it is a very handsome structure, and endowed with an ample revenue, which maintains two rectors and two curates. In this church is the family vault belonging to Earl Cholmondeley, in which many of his illustrious ancestors lie entombed.

There was formerly a castle in this town, of which

there are at present no remains.

According to the returns under the population act in 1801, there were then in Malpas 194 houses, and 906 inhabitants.

The market is held on Monday, and there are

three fairs on the days inserted in our list.

Sir Randle Brereton founded and endowed a free grammar-schoo! here, and an hospital for poor persons.

John Speed, well known for his celebrated Chronicle of England, was born near Malpas, in the year 1552. He was brought up to the trade of a taylor; but, not liking a mechanical employment, he spent his leisure hours in reading such books particularly

as related to the history of England.

He was soon taken notice of by Sir Fulk Greville, who generously allowed him a yearly salary, that he might be able to prosecute his studies without interruption. He was also assisted by many manuscripts, which he purchased for a trifle, from some persons who had assisted in plundering the monasteries. Furnished with these materials he began his history of England, which, although not at present much read, yet is still useful to be consulted. He also wrote a scripture genealogy; but it is not now held in much estimation.

There is one particular wherein Speed always dif-

fers from Sir William Dugdale, namely, in the valuation of the monasteries: his account making their revenues greater than that of Sir William's. Speed's veracity as a writer has never been called in question; and, when it is considered that he lived nearer the times when the monasteries were standing than Sir William, his account of those structures ought to be the more depended upon.

He died in London, in the year 1629, and was in-

terred in St. Giles's church, near Cripplegate.

About four miles to the north-east of Malpas is Cholmondeley Hall, the seat of the Earl Cholmondeley; it is a venerable structure, surrounded with a moat, and situated in a low and damp spot, which renders this mansion an unpleasant residence. An elegant modern house, on a more elevated and pleasant site, is however now building by the present noble possessor of the estate.

At the distance of five miles from Malpas, in our road, is Barn Hill; a little to the north of which is Bolesworth Castle, an appellation given to a spacious fabric, built in the Gothic style, by J. Tilson, Esq. The gardens and pleasure grounds are laid out in a very judicious manner, and possess considerable beauty; and the prospect of the adjacent country

is very extentive.

On leaving Barn Hill, we take a westerly direction, and at the distance of four miles arrive at Farn, or Farndon, a small village, called in the Doomsday book Forenden. Its church was rebuilt soon after the conclusion of the Civil Wars, the former one having been burnt by the Parliamentary forces during the siege of Holt Castle, in the year 1645. An ancient bridge of ten arches connects this place with Holt in Denbighshire, which is only separated by the river Dee.

Three miles porthward from Farndon is Eaton Hall, the seat of Earl Grosvenor. The mansion is a spacious handsome brick building, erected about the

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION. conclusion of the seventeenth century, by Sir John Vanbrugh, who likewise laid out the gardens, which are in the old formal style, with straight walks and leaden statues; they are however ornamented with several fine gates; and the park is well stored with deer. Eaton became the property of the Grosvenor family, through the marriage of Ralph Grosvenor, in the reign of Henry the Sixth, with Joan, daughter of John Eaton, then owner of this estate. The Grosvenor family came into England with the Conqueror; they derived their name from the office of chief huntsmen, which they held in the Norman court; and, "when chivalry was the passion of the times," says Mr. Pennant, "few families shone in so distinguished a manner: none shewed equal spiri in vindicating their rights to their honours. Witness the famous cause between Robert le Grosvenor and Sir Richard le Scrope, about a coat of arms, azure one bend, or; tried before the High Constable and High Marshall of England, in the reign of Richard the Second, and lasted three years. Kings, princes of the blood, and most of the nobility, bore witness in this important affair. The sentence was conciliating; that both parties should bear the same arms; but the Grosvenours avec une bordure d'argent. Sir Robert resents it, and appeals to the King. The judgment is confirmed; but the choice is left to the defendant, either to use the bordure, or bear the arms of their relations, the ancient earls of Chester, azure a gerb d'or. He rejected the mortifying distinction, and chose a gerb: which is the family coat to this dav."

#### AGRICULTURE.

A CCORDING to the general view of the agriculture of this county, as drawn up by Mr. Werdge, the proportion of the cultivated parts, and those which lie either waste or in a state of little profit, are nearly as follows:

Arable, meadow, pasture, &c. about
Waste lands, heaths, commons, greens,
but few woods of any extent,
Peat bogs and mosses
Common fields probably not so much as
Sea sands within the estuary of the Dee,
exclusive of what may lie on the
shores of the river Mersey,

676,000

Soil .- There are a great variety of soils in Cheshire; clay, sand, blackmoor, or peat, marl, and gravel, in various intermixed proportions, abound in different parts of the county. The three first however are the chief prevailing soils, and of these the largest proportion is a cold stiff clay. The under soil is generally clay, marl, sand, gravel, or red rock, but most commonly are of the two former, viz. clay or marl. The numerous mosses, marshes, meadows, and peat-bogs, which abound in different parts of the county, seem sufficiently to prove that either clay, marl, or some other earth of the same kind, is very generally at no great depth from the surface, a large proportion of the county being not more than from one to 200 feet above the level of the sea, as before observed; the climate is on the whole more temperate and mild than the generality of other counties lying under the same latitude, owingto the flatness of its surface, (abounding as it does with much hedge-row timber) and to its lying within the influence of the sea air.

There

There are in Cheshire many very considerable estates possessed by gentlemen who reside in the county. The number of proprietors of land possessing from 500 to 1000l. per annum, are also many. But the race of yeomanry, for which this county was formerly so celebrated, is supposed to be diminished. Another species of freeholders, however, has increased in those parts bordering on Lancashire and Yorkshire, where a number of small farms have been purchased by the manufacturers of cotton, &c.

The tenure is almost universally freehold; there are some copyholds, or what may be called customary freeholds, paying fines and rent certain in Mac-

clesfield. Halton, and two other manors,

The land is occupied in farms of various extent : some may contain 500 acres and upwards. There are few however of more than 300 acres, though the practice of laying farms together seems to be increasing; on the whole, it is probable that there is at least one farmer to every eighty statute acres. In a parish, which is nearly in the centre of the county, the following is a statement of the occupation of the farms.

		L.	1	do .				Tenants.
From	300	to	150	per	annum	there	are	6
	150	to	100	7.6	-	~		11
	100	to	50		-	-	-	18
	30	to	15		-	- 0	-	3
	15	to	8		-	-	-	28

#### MODE OF MANAGEMENT.

The dairy being the principal object of the husbandman in this county, it appears that three fourths of the land is pastured or mown, and the other fourth ploughed. The usual course for stiff clayer land is to plough four years; first, oats; second, fallow for wheat; third, wheat; fourth, oats; and then laid down with clover or grass seeds, and pastured five or six years before it is again broken up and converted into tillage. Sandy land is ploughed only three years, and frequently bears a crop every year. This county was formerly noted for its wheat .-Strabo and Pliny assert that the Romans introduced cheese-making into this county, but this is improbable from various circumstances. The quality and flavour of Cheshire cheese is almost universally known: our readers will not be displeased to have some account

of the manner in which it is made.

A dairy farm of 100 acres is generally divided into the following proportions: from ten to fourteen . acres of oats, from six to eight acres of fallow wheat, and the like quantity of summer fallow; the remainder consists of meadow and pasture, the former occupying about twelve acres. The good dairy farmer attends more to the size, form, and produce of the udder of his cow than to any fancied beauty of shape. This consideration induces him to be particular in the breeding and rearing his calves, and in the management of his cows during the winter and summer seasons. The annual quantity of cheese made from each cow varies from 50 to 500lbs, and upwards, the produce depending on the goodness of the land, the quality of the pasture, the seasons, and the manner in which the stock are wintered. On the whole, the average produce may be estimated at 300lb, from each animal. The quantity of milk yielded daily by each cow, according to this estimate, will be about eight quarts, which it is calculated will produce one pound of cheese. The Cheshire cheese is generally made with two meals' milk, and that in dairies where two cheeses are made in a day; towards the latter end of the season, which continues nearly 22 weeks, they take four, five, or six meals; for, as the cheeses are usually made very large, it is necessary to have a sufficient quantity of milk to make one at a time. The most common size is 60 pounds. They commonly preserve the evening's milk till the next

morning.

morning, when it is skimmed and made warm; it is then incorporated with the new milk. After being mixed in a large tub together with the greatest part of the cream, the dairy woman puts in a proper quantity of rennet and colouring, and then leaves it for about one hour and a half to coagulate and curdle. The colouring is Spanish arnotta. After the cheese is come, or when the milk is properly coagulated, the dairymaid breaks the curd into very small particles, which are then left to subside, and the whey poured off. This process is repeated until the whole of the whey is nearly expelled, when the curd is put into a vat, and occasionally sprinkled with salt. The vat is filled as full as possible, and the whey repeatedly squeezed out before it is placed in the press. The cheese is usually taken twice or thrice out of the vat to place fresh cloths, pare off the edges, and trim it, and sometimes it is immersed in hot whey, for the purpose of hardening the coat. After remaining to the press two or three days, it is next conveyed to 'the salting house, where it is placed in a salting tunnel or tub, in which it continues about three days more, and is next placed on . benches for about eight days, being well salted all over, and turned every day. After this process it is turned twice daily for six or seven days, and then washed in warm water, and wiped dry with a cloth; when dry it is smeared over with whey butter, and placed in the warmest part of the cheese-room, there to remain until it has attained its proper age and consistence.

On the dairy farms one woman-servant is generally kept to every ten cows, who is employed in winter in spinning, and other household business, but in milking is assisted by all the other servants

of the farm.

The cheese is chiefly sold in London, being exported from Chester, Frodsham-bridge, and Warrington. A large quantity goes to Liverpool and

Bristol,

Bristol, some more is disposed of to the Yorkshire

dealers, and some goes into Scotland.

The proper season for calving is reckoned to be from the beginning of March to the beginning of May; and during these months there is more veal fed in Cheshire than in any other county in the kingdom, though generally killed to spare the milk.

Live Stock, Horses, Sheep, and Swine.—The horses employed in this county for the purposes of agriculture are generally of the strong black kind, the best of which are purchased in Derbyshire. Those bred in the county are not remarkable, but they have of late years been much improved by mixtures with

the Leicestershire kinds.

There is no species of cattle peculiar to this county. The long-horned Lancashire, the Yorkshire short-horned or Holderness, the Derbyshire, the Shropshire, the Staffordshire, the Welch, Irish, Scotch, and the true Leicestershire cattle, have at different times been introduced into different parts of the county, and the present stock of dairy cows is a mixture of all these breeds. It is impossible to say which of the intermixed breeds are the most approved of as milkers, milk being the general object: some persons prefer half-bred cattle from the Lancashire and present Cheshire, others a breed between the Cheshire and the Welch, while a cross between the Lancashire and Holdeness, and one between the Lancashire and Welch have also their advocates. On the more valuable pastures a breed partaking of the short-horned Holderness, or the longhorned Lancashire, seems to be the most prevalent.

Sheep.—There are very few sheep kept in the farms in this county; what are kept the farmers are supplied with chiefly from the Welch and Scotch markets, and from the neighbouring counties of Salop, Derby, &c. In general no more sheep are kept on the farms than can be supported by running in the stubbles and picking the fallows. The com-

mous and wastes maintain a few; and on Delamere forest great numbers are kept of a small and fine woolled kind. This breed has been improved by crosses with the Herefordshire.

The common breed of hogs kept in this county

is a mixture between the long and short eared.

Woods and Timber.—There is a considerable quantity of wood growing in this county, and it is owing to this circumstance, and the facility of procuring hides in large quantities from the manufacturing towns in Lancashire, that so many tanners have settled in Cheshre. Besides the hides of cattle slaughtered at home, great numbers are imported from Ireland.

In Lord Stamford's Park at Dunham, as before observed, are some of the largest caks in the kingdom. There are single trees elsewhere larger perhaps than any here, but no where so many large trees grow together. In the spring of the year 1793, there was a remarkable one felled at Morley, near Welmslow. The principal trunk rose above six yards from the ground, and there gave off four branches, at nearly equal distances, each being a large tree.

In the parish of Frodsham great quantities of potatoes are raised. It is calculated that not less than 120,000 busiles of 90lb. weight each, have annually for some years past been grown in it. They meet with a ready sale in Lancashire, and are easily conveyed by the river Mersey, to Liverpool, and by

the Bridgewater canal, to Manchester.

S ...

The land in the neighbourhood of Mottram is chiefly meadow and pasturage. Some wheat and oats are grown, and potatoes are cultivated. The soil is generally of a loamy or clayey nature, and marl is found in several places. The farms are commonly small, from 10l. to 30l. per annum, few exceed 50l. The smaller ones are let high, nor would the tenant pay such prices; but for the in-

dustry

dustry of himself and family, who are in general manufacturers, either weavers, hatters, or cotton-spinners, and sometimes all in the same house. The chief article of the farm is a roomy house, and their two or three cows produce milk and butter for the use of the family, with a little to spare to send to market.

The climate in this parish is cold and inclement, owing to the currents of wind from the hills and the vast quantity of rain which falls, keeping the low ground for a great part of the year nearly under water; the roads are seldom dry, except in July and August.

MINES AND MINERALS.

The principal mineral productions of this county are salt and coal. It is more remarkable for the former, which is found in inexhaustible quantities. Coals are got in considerable quantity on the eastern side of the county, and some is obtained from the hundred of Wirral. The principal saltworks are at Namptwich, Middlewich, Winsford, and Northwich.

The salt springs (an account of which has already been given in our topographical description of Namptwich), are about 30 miles from the sea, and generally lie all along the river Weever. There is indeed an appearance of the same vein at Middlewich, nearer the river Dane; and all lie near brooks and in meadows.

The average quantity of salt, made from the Cheshire brine-springs, which are inexhaustible in quantity, and many of them fully saturated, is supposed to be nearly

Tons.	Tons.
At Northwich - 45,000	Lawton 1,500
Winsford 15,000	Namptwich 60
Middlewich 4 000	
If to thece numbers by	added for refined road

salt, as

Northwich - - - 5000 | Frodsham - - - 4,000

The whole quantity of salt made in Cheshire will

appear, viz. about 74,560 tons."-Dr. Aikin.

The township of Duckinfield abounds in mines and quarries that yield a considerable revenue. The coal-pits are from sixty to an hundred yards in depth, according to the bearing of the strata. Iron one is found in great abundance, and the smelting of iron was carried on here at a very remote period; for in a field called the Brun Yerth, (a provincial pronunciation of Burnt Earth), the scorize of iron have been met with in considerable quantity; also the ore in one of the mines has been found wanting, while the other strata remained in their original position. The borders of several of the old pits are planted with fir-trees, which thrive remarkably well, and soon form small woods, that give to the adjacent country a pleasing appearance.

At Kenridge, on the hills near Macclessield, slate and slags are got in great abundance. Excellent stone for building is procured from the eastern hills, also at Millington near Bucklowhill, at Highcliff near Werrington, at Hesswell near Parkgate, and in

many other places.

Mill-stones are got at Mole-cop, and sent to va-

rious parts of the country.

Large quantities of lime-stone are dug at Newbold Astbury, about three miles from Congleton, at the edge of Molecop. It is principally used for manure, being in general preferred by the farmers, to the Buxton lime. It is longer in breaking down, s vells more, and is thought to be more durable; it burns to a grey ash colour.

On Alderly Edge, about five miles to the northwest of Macclesheld, both copper and lead ore have been found, the former in pretty considerable quantity. The ore lies very near the surface, but is of too poor a quality to pay the expence of getting

and smelting.

The vast rock at Tinsell Moor, in the parish of Mottram, in this county, consists or solid blocks of a coarse grey stone, full of small pebbles or flints, of a most durable quality. It can be easily cut in the quarry, but becomes as hard as flint when exposed to the air. It is well calculated for use in which beauty is not the object, as ordinary building, kerb stones, and posts.

Under Butland Edge, in the same parish, is a quarry of flag-stone, which is got six feet in length, and proportionably broad. Near the top of the hill is a good stone for building, softer and of better

quality than any in the neighbourhood.

A mineral spring was discovered in the year 1805, in the small Island of Hilbury, at the western extremity of this county, possessing the powerful efficacy of curing the rheumatism, &c. The property of the spring was accidentally discovered by a respectable Welsh farmer, who went to the island for the benefit, of his health, and happening to wash his hands much swellen from rheumatic affection, in its waters, found immediate relief.

In the year 1805, in sinking a well for water, near Penbedw House, the seat of Watkin Williams, Esq. at the depth of eight yards below the surface, a plentiful bed of manganese has been discoved, a circumstance which promises to be of great advan-

tage to the neighbourhood.

In the morasses or mosses, whence the country people cut their turf or peat for fuel, there are marine shells in great plenty, some cones, nuts, and shells, trunks of fir-trees and fir-apples, with many other exotic substances. The morasses in which these substances are found are frequently upon the summit of high mountains; and the learned have been greatly divided in their opinion how they came there. The general opinion, however, is that they were brought thither by the Deluge, not merely from their situation, but because seven or eight trees

are frequently found much closer to each other, than it was possible for them to grow, and under these trees are frequently found the exuvix of animals, as shells and bones of fishes; and particularly the head of a Hippopotamus was dug up in one of these moors, and shewn to Dr. Leigh, the author of the natural history of this county.

There are however substances of a much later date than the general deluge found among these trees and exuviæ, particularly a brass kettle, a small stone, and some ambér beads, which were given to the doctor soon after they were found.—Ihe firtrees are dug up by the peasants, and are so full of turpentine that they are cut into slips, and used in

stead of candles.

Dr. Leigh also mentions a kind of sheep in this county which differed from all other sheep in the kingdom; he supposes them to be natives of this county, and says they are larger than most other sheep, and covered rather with hair than wool; and that all of them had four horns, the two horns nearest the neck standing out like those of goats, but larger, while the two next the forehead are curved like those of other sheep. The flesh of these sheep was different from that of other mutton, and had some resemblance in taste and colour to the flesh of goats.

and only those in this configuration and the

### BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

OF THIS COUNTY.

IN addition to our biographical sketches, introduced into the body of the work, the following concise particulars relative to the most distinguished characters of this county, will not, we trust be

deemed uninteresting.

Samuel Molyneux was born in the city of Chester, about the year 1689; his father was the celebrated William Molyneux, the companion and friend of Locke. The plan of education recommended by this celebrated author was pursued in the tuition of Samuel Molyneux, and attended with success. His early attainments were marked by manly intelligence, and proportionate wisdom accompanied the increase of his years. When arrived at manhood, he had the fanie of being one of the most accomplished characters of his age.

He was chosen secretary to his late Majesty, when Prince of Wales, and had a residence at Kew, where his place being only a sinecure, he, in concert with Mr. Bradley, had an opportunity of prosecuting his favourite study, astronomy, and the improvement of the glasses of telescopes. He also invented an accurate instrument, for determining the annual paralax of the fixed stars. He was soon after appointed a commissioner of the Admiralty, and was constrained by the pressure of national business, to relinquisit

his accustomed pursuits.

He applied himself with unwearied diligence to the duties of his office, and became distinguished for his great abilities, especially in affairs relating to the

navy.

The change of his studies neither suited his inclinations nor his genius, and his death which happened on the 3rd of January, 1730, shortly followed his promotion. His papers were published by Dr. Smith in his "Treatise of Optics."

THOMAS EGERTON, son of Richard Egerton, of Ridgely, was born in the year 1540, and was admitted commoner of Brazen-nose College, Oxford, in the 17th year of his age. After staying there three years, he removed to Lincoln's Inn, and be-

came a counsellor of great practice.

In the year 1581, Queen Elizabeth constituted him her solicitor-general. In 1592 he was made attorney-general, and knighted soon after. In 1594 he was appointed master of the rolls; and in 1596, was made lord-keeper of the great seal of England, and sworn one of her Majesty's privy-council, and was allowed to hold the mastership of the rolls till May, 1603, when King James the First conferred it on Edward Bruce. The Earl of Essex upon his disgrace, was committed to the custody of the lord-keeper, who endeavoured to keep him from those courses which afterwards proved his ruin. In 1602 the lord-keeper was in a special commission for putting the law in execution against jesuits and seminary priests.

In 1603, King James caused the great seal to be broken, and put a new one into the hands of the lork-keeper Egerton, created him baron of Ellesmere, and constituted him lord high chancellor of England; and 1610 he was elected chancellor of

the University of Oxford.

His health declining very much, in the year 1615 Sir Francis Bacon, made great interest for his office of lord high chancellor; and about the same time Sir Edward Coke, lord chief justice, sued him in premunire, which caused him a great deal of uneasiness. In Wilson's life of King James the First, an account of the affair may be seen. But recovering from his indisposition, he was, on the 12th of May, 1616, constituted lord high steward for the trial of Robert earl of Somerset, and Francis his wife, and and had the honesty to refuse to affix the great seal to the pardon afterwards granted them by King

James I. But his infirmities increasing upon him, he begged of the king to be discharged from his office. His Majesty parted with his faithful servant with much tenderness, and created him viscount Brackley, Nov. 7, 1616. As a mark of his favour, he let him keep the seal till the beginning of Hilary term following, and then sent Secretary Winwood for it, with this message, "That himself would be his under keeper, and not dispose of it while he lived to bear the title of chancellor," which was accordingly done. In 1616-17, he voluntarily resigned the office of chancellor of the university of Oxford.

He died at York-house in the Strand, March 15, 1616-17, in a good old age, and was buried pri-

vately at Dodleston in Cheshire.

He was a man of quick apprehension, solid judgment, and ready utterance: he was a good lawyer, just, and honest. He wrote a few things, among which was a speech in the Exchequer chamber, touching the post nati, published in London 1609, 4to, in 16 sheets; and certain observations concerning the office of the lord chancellor, 1651, 8vo. He also left behind him four manuscripts of choice collections. 1. The Prerogative Royal. 2. Privileges of Parliament. 3. Proceedings in Chancery. 4. The Power of the Star Chamber.

RAPHAEL HOLLINGSHED, the celebrated author of the Chronicles of England, was born in the reign of Henry the Eighth, but it is not known in what year, no more than to what profession he was brought up, though his having had a liberal education cannot be doubted. From a variety of circumstances is appears that he begun to write his history soon after the accession of Queen Elizabeth; and that he was assisted in the execution of it by several others. Considering the distance of time in which he lived, it is written in a very agreeable stile, and though it has gone through several editions, yet it is exceedingly scarce at present.

The time of the death of our historian is no more known with certainty than that of his birth; but it appears from his will, which is prefixed to an edition of Camden's Annals, that it happened between

the years 1578 and 1582.

SIR JOHN VANBRUGH (a celebrated dramatic writer and architect) was descended from an ancient family in Cheshire, who came originally from France, though from the name he appears to be from Dutch extraction. The year of his birth is not certainly known; but from a variety of circumstances it appears to have been about the reign of King Charles the Second.

He received his education from a private tutor, and from his natural genius, even when very young, became eminent both as a poet and an architect.

The first comedy he wrote, called "The Relapse, or Virtue in Danger," was acted with great applause in the year 1897, which encouraged him afterwards to write others to the number of eleven, and several of them are still held in very high estimation.

The great credit he gained by his dramatic performances was attended with more beneficial advantages than usually arise from the profits of writing for the stage. He was first appointed to the office of Clarencieux kirg at arms; which, after holding for some time, he disposed of. In the month of August, 1716, he was appointed surveyor of the works at Greenwich Ho-pital. He was likewise made comptroller-general of his Majesty's works, and surveyor of the gardens.

It is reasonable, however, to suppose that these emoluments were conferred on him, not for his abilities as a dramatic writer, but for his great skill in architecture; for his ingenuity in that science was so conspicuous, that several noble structures were erected under his direction, particularly Blenheim House in Oxfordshire, and Claremont in Surrey.

He likewise built the Opera House in the Hay-

market; to defray the expence of which he raised a subscription, from thirty persons of quality, of 1001. each; in consideration whereof each subscriber, for his own life, was to be admitted to every representation without farther expence. When the first stone of this structure was laid, it was inscribed with these words: "The little Whig," as a compliment to a lady of extraordinary beauty, the celebrated toast and pride of that party, namely, the Countess of Sunderland, second daughter of the great Duke of Marlborough.

Sir John, in some part of his life (for the time when cannot be certainly ascertained) went over to France, in order, as is supposed, to improve himself in the knowledge of architecture. During his stay there he took views of several distinguished fortifications, in doing of which, being one day observed by an engineer, he was, by his information, taken into custody, and after an exammination before an officer of the police, was committed prisoner to the

Bastile.

The Earl of Stair was at that time the English ambassador at Paris, and being informed of Sir John's confinement, he went to the Duke of Orleans, the then regent, and procured his liberty, otherwise he might have spent the remainder of his days in confinement, or have ended them on a scaffold.

On his return to England he took a genteel house near Whitehall, and continued to pursue his beloved studies of poetry and architecture till his death, which happened on the 26th of March, 1726.

He was the contemporary and friend of Mr. Congrève, whose genius was likewise formed for dramatic productions; and these two comic writers gave new life to the stage, which before was greatly on the decline.

One of Sir John's comedies, however, when first acted and printed, bordered too near upon profanity and lasciviousness, for which he was chastised,

with a becoming severity, by Mr. Collier; and though he answered this gentleman rather in a satirical than a judicious manner, yet, in his advanced years, he was convinced of his error; and, about a year before his death, when he heard that a great person had ordered the "Provoked Wife" should be acted, he substituted a new scene, instead of one which was

justly reprehensible. SIR JOHN BIRKENHEAD was son of Randel Birkenhead, of Northwich, in this county, sadler. He became a servitor of Oriel College, under the tuition of Humphry Lloyd, afterwards bishop of Bangor. He continued in the college till he was made bachelor of arts, and then became amanuensis to Dr. Laud, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, who admired him so much for his ingenuity, that in the year 1639, by his diploma, he made him master of arts, and by his letters commendatory thereupon, he was elected probationer fellow of All Soul's college, in the following year. After the rebellion broke out, and the king set up his court at Oxford, our author was appointed to write the Mercurii Aulici, which being much approved of by the royal party, his majesty recommended him to the electors, that they would chuse him moral philosophy reader, which being accordingly done, he continued in that office, with little profit from it, tlll the year 1648, at which time he was not only turned out thence, but likewise from his fellowship, by the presbyterian visitors.-Afterwards, in this destitute situation, Wood observes, that he retired to London, and made shift to live upon his wits; having some reputation in poetry, he was often applied to by young people in love, to write epistles for them, and songs and sonnets on their mistresses : he was also employed in translating and writing other little things, so as to procure a tolerable livelihood. Having in this manner supported the gloomy period of confusion, he was at his majesty's restoration, by virtue of his letters,

sent to the University, created doctor of the civil law, and in the year 1661, he was selected a burgess of Wilton, to serve in that parliament which began at Westminster, on the eighth of May in the san e

On the 14th of November, 1662, he received the honour of knighthood, and, in January, 1663, he was constituted one of the Masters of Request, in the room of Sir Richard Fanshaw, when he went ambassador into Spain; he being then also master of the faculties, and a member of the Royal Society. His works are Mercurius Aulicus, communicating the intelligence and affairs of the court at Oxford to the rest of the kingdom. The first of these was pullished on the 1st of June, 1642, and were carried on till about the end of 1645; after which they were published but now and then. They were printed weekly in one sheet, and sometimes in more, in 4to. and contain (says Wood) a great deal of wit and buffoonery ; - News from Pembroke ant Montgomery, or Oxford Manchestered, &c. printed 1648, in oxe sheet, 4to; it is a feigned speech, as spoken by Ph lip, Earl of Pembroke, in the Convocation House at Oxford, April 12, 1648, when he came to visit and undo the University, as Edward, Earl of Manchester, had done that of Cambridge, while he was ci ancellor thereof; it is exceeding waggish, and much imitating his lordship's way of speaking ;- Paul's Church-yard ; Libri theologica, politici, historici, mundinis panlinis (una cum tempto) prostant rerules, &c. printed in three sheets, 4to. 1649. These pampllets contain feigned titles of books, and acts of parliament, and several questions all reflecting on the reformers, and men in those times ;- The four-legged Quaker, a ballad, to the tune of The Dog and Elder's Maid, London, 16:9; -A new Bullad of a famous German Prince, without date :- The Assembly Man. written 1647. The copy of it was taken from the author by those that said they could not rob, be-

cause all was theirs; at length, after it had slept several years, the author published it to avoid false copies; it is also printed in a book entitled, Wit and Loyalty Revived, in a collection of some smart Satires in verse and prose, on the late times, London, 1682, said to be written by Cowley, our author, and the famous Butler. He has also scattered copies of verses and translations extant, to which are vocal compositions, set by Henry Lawes, such as Anacreon's ode, called The Lute, an anniversary on the nuptials of John, Earl of Bridgewater. He has also written a poem on his staying in London after the act of banishment for cavaliers, and another called The Jolt, made upon Cromwell's being thrown off the coachbox of his own coach, which he would drive through Hyde Park, drawn by six German horses, sent him as a present by the court of Oldenburgh, while his secretary, John Thurloe, sat in the coach, July, 1654. He died near Whitehall, in the year 1679, and was buried in the church-yard of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. (Bibliotheca Biographica.)

Sig Thomas Aston (well known for his bravery during the civil wars in the last century) was born at his father's seat in this county, in the year 1610; he received his education at the free school of Macclesfield, from whence he was removed to Brazen-nose College, Oxford. He did not, however, remain long in that learned seminary, for his father dying he was sent for home, and being zealously attached to the court, he was soon after created a baronet.

On the meeting of the Long Parliament he wrote several pieces, full of great severity against the Presbyterians, which tended rather to inflame than heal

the divisions.

When the king set up his standard at Nottingham, Sir Thomas Aston not only persuaded many of the gentlemen in Cheshire to accompany him, but likewise, at his own expence, raised a troop of horse for the service of the royal cause; but they were defeated by a small party under the command of Lord Fairfax, and Sir Thomas Aston was wounded.

He still, however, continued to raise men for the king; but, being soon after taken in a skirmish, he was carried prisoner to Stafford, from whence, endeavouring to make his escape, he received a severe blow on the head from one of the soldiers. This, with the wound he had before received, brought on a mortification and fever, of which he died, on the

24th of March, 1645.

THOMAS WILSON, the venerable bishop of Sodor and Man, was born at Burton, a small village, near Great Neston, on the 20th December, 1663, as he himself relates, in his manuscript diary, 'of honest parents, fearing God.' His education was strictly attended to, and, when his attainments had sufficiently qualified him for the University, he was removed to Trinity College, Dublin, whither, at that period, most of the youthful gentry of Cheshire and Lancashire were sent to pursue their studies. Here his attention was first engaged by the science of medicine; he, however, relinquished this, by the advice of Archbishop Hewitson, for divinity; and, having made considerable progress in academical learning, he was ordained in June, 1686; towards the conclusion of which year he quitted the University, and was licensed to be curate of New Church in Lancashire, of which his maternal uncle, Dr. Sherlock, was rector. In the year 1692 he became domestic chaplain to the Earl of Derby, and preceptor to his son, Lord Strange, with a salary of 301. per annum; this, with a similar sum derived from his curacy, and 20l. which he received annually, as master of the almshouse at Latham, constituted his entire income; yet even this exceeded his wishes, any farther than as it enabled him to appropriate a greater sum to the relief of the necessitous. Soon afterwards a valuable rectory in Yorkshire was offered

him, but which he refused from the conscientious motive of not being able to reside among those to whom he might have been appointed pastor. In the year 1607 the Earl of Derby would have promoted him to the bishopric of Sodor and Man, but this dignity he declined from principles of humility and lowliness, till, after the expiration of several months, when, to use his own words, he was forced into it .-In April, 1698, he took possession of his see, and by the goodness of his life, and his mild, dignified, and apostolic manners, very eminently contributed to the spreading of Christianity among the inhabitants; for, previous to his arrival in the Isle of Man, the natives, speaking generally, were extremely ignorant; and the duties of religion and morality were very little known, and less practised. But the pious labours of the bishop, and his fervent endeavours to enlighten and improve their minds, proved extremely succesful; and his memory is respected and revered by every class of the Manks inhabitants. This esteemed and worthy prelate died on the 7th of March, 1755, in the 93rd year of his age, having held the bishopric no less than 58 years.

TABLE OF THE POPULATION OF CHESHIRE,

According to the Returns under the Act of Parliament, in the year 1801.

not to balmo		l mor
Total of Persons.	13064 28768 17851 56437 17637 23455 10744 15052	191751
Ditto in trade or manufacture.	909 4782 1357 42769 2303 3728 941 2149	67447
Employed in Agri- culture.	4503 8570 4137 6997 6038 4286 3870 402	38823
Females.	6743 14550 9014 28731 8984 12001 5605 8560	26686
Males.	6321 14178 8837 27706 8653 11454 5139 6492	92759
Inhabited Houses.	2358 4958 2896 10067 3218 4425 2025 3109	34482
	·····	
Hundreds.		Total
Hun	Brokton, Sucklow, Eddisbury, Macclesfield, Northwich, Wirral, City. Chester, Town.	
	Buc Edc Maa Nar Nor Wir Che	

### RARE PLANTS,

#### FOUND IN CHESHIRE.

Acorus Calamus. Sweet-smelling Flag or Calamus; in rivers with a muddy bottom.

Asplenium Scolopendrium, var. Jagged or fingered Hart's-tongue; on Beeston Castle walls.

Bidens cernua B. A variety of whole-leaved waterhemped Agrimony; about Tarporley and elsewhere.

Brussica muralis. Wild Rocket; on the walls of Chester.

Comarum palustre. Purple Cow-wheat; on a hill at Horseley-bath near Beeston Castle.

Myrica Gale. Sweet Willow, Goule, Gale, or Dutch Myrtle; near Whitchurch, so plentifully that the place where it grows is called Gale Moor.

Nurcissus poeticus. Common pale Daffodil or Primrose Peerless; in some closes at Bellow hill, near Whitchurch.

Osmunda Regalis. Water Fern, Flowering Fern, or Osmund Royal; on Gale moor, near Whitchnreh, plentifully.

Pinguicula vulgaris. Butter-wort or Yorkshire Sanicle; on Willow Moor Common, near Whitchurch, plentifully.

· Polypodium marginale. · Marginal Polypody; this plant is said to grow commonly in this county.

Prunus Cerasus B. The least Wild Heart Cherry-tree, or Merry-tree; near Stockport, and elsewhere.

Saxifraga autumnalis. Small Yellow Mountain Sengreen, or Autumnal Sengreen; on Beeston castle, and on a high hill in Wirswall town, near Malpas.

Saxifraga hirculus. Marsh Saxifrage; on Knutsford Moor.

M

Silene

Silene Armeria. Broad-leaved Catch-fly; on the banks of the river below Chester.

Sorbus Aucuparia. The Wild Ash, Quicken-tree, or Mountain Ash; in the mountainous meadows near Bellow-hill, near Whitchurch.

Tenacetum Vulgure. Common Tansey; in the meadows near Whitchurch.

Vaccinium Oxycoccus. Cranberries, Marsh Whortleberries, Moss-berries, or Moor-berries; on Gale-moor near Whitchurch, and several other places near Bellow hill.

Vaccinium Vitis Idaa.—Red Whorts, or Whortleberries; on the moors, common.

-Perfect property with the House suggest and

#### A TIST OF THE PRINCIPAL WORKS

That have been Published in Illustration of the Topography, Antiquities, &c.

Df Cheshire.

" The Vale-Royal of England; or the County Palatine of Chester illustrated: wherein is contained a geographical and historical description of that famous county, with all its Hundreds, and Seats of the Nobility, Gentry, and Freeholders; its Rivers, Towns, Castles, and Buildings, Ancient and Modern," with Maps, Views, and Coats of Arms of " every individual Family" in the county. This was published by Mr. D. King, from the papers of William Smith. Rouge Dragon Pursuivant, and those of William Web, clerk of the Mayor's court at Chester. Annexed is "an exact Chronology of all its rulers and governors" &c. and also " An excellent discourse of the Isle of Man;" folio, 1656, London. The confused arrangement of this work occasioned Dr. Gower to call it the Tower of Babel of Cheshire. The principal part of this work has been reprinted, with all its faults. in "The History of Cheshire; containing King's Vale-Royal, entire; together with considerable extracts from Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities, and the observations of later writers, particularly Pennant, Grose, &c." 2 Vols. 8vo. 1773, Chester.

A work was published by Sir Peter Leycester in 1673, under the title of " Historical Antiquities, in two books: the first treating in general of Great Britain and Ireland; the second containing particular remarks concerning Chester," &c. folio, London. In this work some assertions are made respecting the legitimacy of Amicia, daughter of Hugh Cyveliock, Earl of Chester, occasioned a long contest between Sir Peter and his cousin Sir Thomas Mainwaring. No less than twelve pamphlets were published by the zealous disputants in support of their respective affirmations. The M 2

The contest was even carried to a court of law, and the judges decided in favour of Sir Thomas, that "Amicia was no bastard." But even this did not end the dispute, which was only terminated by the death of Sir Peter.

"Sketch of the Materials for a new History of Cheshire, with short accounts of the genius and manners of its inhabitants, and of some local customs, peculiar to that distinguished county," by Dr. Gower, of Chelmsford, 4to. 1771. A Second Edition was published in 1773, with the titles somewlat altered, a new preface, and some account of further materials. In this the author, after enumerating the vast collections relative to this county made by preceding antiquaries, solicits the assistance of his countrymen in erecting a lasting monument to their honors, "on a plan entirely different from any other provincial history."

Some particulars concerning the Earldom of Chester, are contained in Sir John Dodderidge's "History of the Ancient and Modern estate of the Principality of Wales;" 4to. 1630, 1714: London.

"The holy Lyfe and History of Saynt Wcrburge," the patroness of St. Werburgh's Abbey at Chester, was compiled by Henry Bradshaw, a monk on the foundation, and printed by Richard Pynson in the year 1521, small 4to.

"The Death of the Rood of West Chester," 8vo. 1565, is mentioned by Ames, in his history of printing.

"A Summary of the Life of St. Werburgh, with an Historitorical account of the images upon her Shrine (now the Episcopal throne) in the choir of Chester Cathedral;" by Dr. William Cowper; 4to. Chester.

"An Historical Account of the Town and Parish of Nantwich, with a particular relation of the remarkable siege it sustained in the grand Rebellion in 1643," 8vo. 1774, was printed at Shrewsbury. Another work relating to this siege, entitled "Magnalia Dei; a relation of some of the many remarkable passages in Cheshire, before the Siege of Nantwich, during the continuance of it, and at the happy raising thereof." thereof," &c. appeared in a letter to a member of parliament. 4to. 1674, London.

Particulars of the City and Cathedral of Chester, are to be found in Pennant's Tour in Wales, and from Chester to London; with views of the Chapter House, North Gate, &c. The latter work contains considerable information concerning other places in this county, particularly Beeston Castle. Banbury, Acton, and Nantwich; with views of Beeston castle and Nantwich church.

Aikin's Description of the Country round Manchester, contains as account of many places in Cheshire, particularly Chester, Nantwich, Runcorn, Northwich, Macclessfield, Stockport, Dukinfield, and Mottram; and is ornamented with a plan of Chester, &c. and views of Tatton Hall, Booth's Hall, Dunham Massey, Macclesfield, Lyme Hall, Poynton Stockport, Harden Hall, Dukinfield Hall, Bridge, and Lodge, Mottram church, Mottram, and Carr-Torr, from drawings by E. Dayes, large vol. 4to.

"A brief Narrative of a Strange and Wonderful Old Woman who hath a pair of horns growing upon her head," &c. 4to. 1679; London. This was reprinted in Morgan's Phoenix Britannicus, 1732. A print of her is in Leigh's Natural History of Lancashire and Cheshire;" folio.

"The Life of Nixon, the Cheshire prophet," and copies of his Prophecies, have been several times printed in small pamphlets, both at Chester and in Londoo.

In the Philosophical Transactions, Nos. 53 and 54, are Dr. Jackson's answers to queries about the salt springs and works at Nantwich. In No. 222, is a letter from Dr. Halley, with an account of the Roman Altar found at Chester, and described in this volume, page 200. In No. 156 are some remarks on the Salt Springs of Worcestershire, Staffordshire, and this county, by Dr. Lister; and in Vol. XLVII. is Mr. Thomas Perceval's account of the Roman Stations in Cheshire and Lancashire. The first volume of the Archaelogia contains some observations, by the same gentleman, on the

course of the Ermine Street, through this county and Lancashire. Some particulars of Chester Castle are inserted in Grose's Antiquities.

A small map of this county was engraved by Hollar in 1670. Another was published by Emanuel Bowen; and in 1777 appeared "a Survey of Cheshire," in four sheets, by P. P. Burdett. The latest is in Smith's English Atlas 1801. In "Braunii Civitates Obis" is a plan of Chester,

supposed to be the most ancient one now extant.
Views of Chester, S. W. Chester Castle, N. W. Beeston
Castle, S. Combermere Abbey, W. Birkenhead Priory,
S. W. Halton Castle, &c. have been engraved by Buck,
Another of Beeston Castle was executed by Pouncy. A
view in Lyme Park was engraved by Vivaries, from a painting by Smith; and another of Crewe Hall, by Toms,
from a drawing by W. Yoxall. A distant view of Chester
in the Copper-plate Magazine, engraved by Walker, from a
drawing by Turner.

END OF THE LIST OF WORKS.

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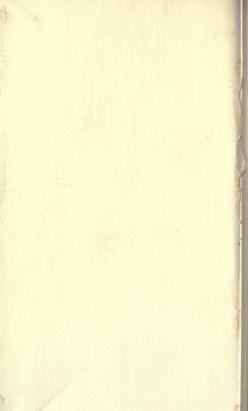
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